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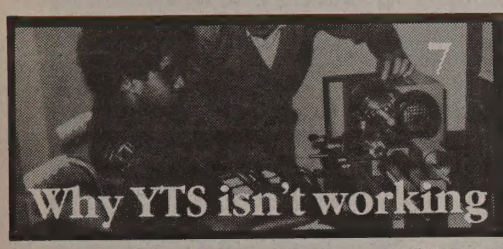

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Insurance scheme beats discrimination

The first all-embracing insurance scheme for disabled people was launched last month by the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation in conjunction with J F Graham, brokers, and the Sun Alliance Insurance group.

It includes life cover, savings schemes, mortgages, personal pensions, house and contents insurance and holiday insurance. A special scheme has been established for paying funeral expenses.

"We've always been concerned about the problems of insurance for disabled people", says George Wilson, director of RADAR. "Many of them are still turned down for insurance of all kinds on the illogical grounds that they are disabled."

While there can be no guarantee of acceptance with this scheme, he is confident that requests will be considered sympathetically and that there will be no discrimination. The scheme is also open to carers.

J F Graham has generously agreed to contribute up to 50 per cent of the normal charge payable to the broker by the insurer to a special trust fund. This will be administered by 3 trustees, representing each of the organisations involved.

The money will be used to fund applications for equipment and services for disabled people from individuals or organisations.

Information about the scheme will be in RADAR bulletins. Or contact Anne Cox, RADAR, 25 Mortimer St, London W1N 8AB.

Simon Crompton

Up, up and away! *Families with disabled children gathered in Battersea Park, London, on 21 August and released hundreds of multi-coloured balloons marked "Claim ICA before 1st December". The ICA Steering Group, representing over 50 disability, carers' and women's organisations, organised the event to celebrate Jacqueline Drake's victory in the European Court of Justice, extending Invalid Care Allowance to married and co-habiting women. It was also a reminder to 70,000 newly entitled women to claim their backpayment to December 1984 before 1 December this year.*

A new style of client care

The Spastics Society launches IPPs

In line with its policy of integrating disabled people into the community, The Spastics Society is this month launching a new approach to institutional care.

Over the next two years, the Society's 750 residents and 300 users of day services will be offered the chance to have their own individual programme plans (IPPs).

"Many of the users of the Society's services do not have real control over their lives", says John Belcher, director of social services. "Even the best institutions institutionalise people, and residents lose the ability to exercise choice or never develop it at all."

"Individual programme plans will, we hope, redress the balance. The user will be in control, deciding, with the help of family or independent advocate and his chosen 'key worker', the goals he wants to achieve, and then receiving the resources – staff and equipment – he needs to achieve them."

The goals will vary from living independently or finding a job to coping with everyday skills like doing up buttons. Once they are decided, they will be noted down so that all relevant staff know who is responsible for helping to achieve each goal. Meetings will be held every 6 months to discuss progress and decide new goals.

The Spastics Society commissioned ESCATA (East Sussex Consultancy and Training Agency) to produce a video and training pack for its staff.

Staff in 4 residential units and 4 skill development centres are now being trained ready for a pilot project beginning next month. By October 1987 all residential and day services staff will have completed training.

"We would like to see the idea of individual programme plans taken up by other organisations who care for disabled people", says John Belcher.

"The Spastics Society has a wide range of experience with practically every type of mental and physical disability and already works with district health authorities, voluntary organisations and local government. We hope that we can spearhead a change in institutional care."

30 districts have no rheumatologist

Seven and a half million people living in 30 health districts in the UK do not have a consultant rheumatologist. Yet arthritis and rheumatism are Britain's most widespread diseases, affecting millions of people.

This is the finding of a new report prepared by Professor Philip Wood of the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council's Epidemiology Research Unit. It has been published to mark the 50th anniversary of the Council.

Professor Wood argues that if adequate treatment is to reach people with arthritis and rheumatism and prevent them from suffering undue pain and disability, there should be one consultant for every 150,000 people.

He found that the overall figure for the UK is one consultant per 192,560. In Wales this leaps to 234,166; in Sotland, 367,857 and in N. Ireland, 524,233.

Other badly hit areas are the South West of England, Merseyside, The Trent, Yorkshire, West Midlands and Oxford.

People living in the South-East come off best.

The problem is not a lack of specialists, says Professor Wood. "There are enough rheumatologists who have completed their specialist training to plug the worst gaps immediately", he says. "The real trouble is resources, and for that the buck stops with politicians and government."

Barney Hayhoe, Minister for Health, replying on the *Today* programme on 27 August, promised to look into the uneven distribution of rheumatologists. He said he had had talks about more posts and agreement had been reached "to put this into better perspective for the future."

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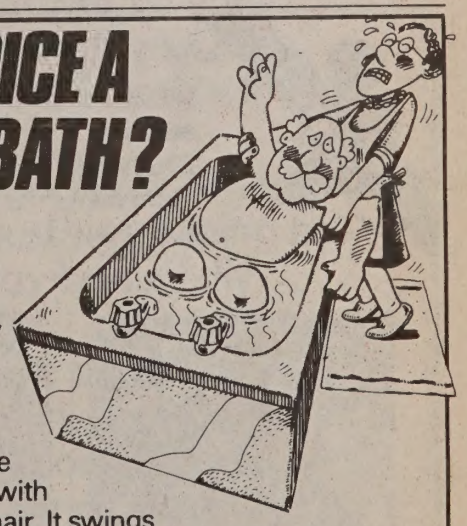

Struggling to leave a bath is neither relaxing or safe—yet many elderly and less able people have little alternative.

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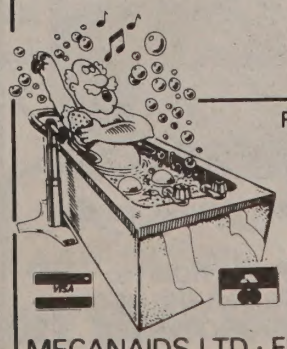

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Letters to the Editor

Disability *Now* 12 Park Crescent London W1N 4EQ

Employing disabled people is fraught with problems, says disability employer

The Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People is committed to employing disabled people, but we have come up against a number of problems which need publicity and wider discussion.

For example the DHSS has suspended Attendance Allowances – one appointee was told "you lose the allowance automatically when you get a job", whilst another was informed that the change of circumstances warrants investigation. It now appears to be systematic that allowances are suspended when a disabled person gets a job.

We have also experienced the Attendance Allowance being stopped when paying a disabled person Therapeutic Earnings, even though the correct procedure had been followed.

The worry (of whether or not the allowances will be reinstated) and the hardship caused, particularly if personal help is being paid for out of the allowances, is extreme.

The difficulties of organising reliable transport and the high cost of travelling to and from work are also serious problems, particularly for people with severe physical impairments. In fact the cost of getting to work when coupled with the loss of benefits has made it hardly worthwhile having a job, even when the rates of pay have been quite reasonable (eg two posts were at £7,900 p.a.).

We are also getting far too few applicants with the right qualities and experience.

Whilst we have not stipulated formal qualifications for jobs we have been looking for disabled people who have been active in campaigning organisations and who have knowledge of important issues such as independent/integrated living, discrimination and equal opportunities.

Very few applicants had given any thought to disability issues; some expressed a desire to do "good works", whilst others thought we were being "charitable" in offering jobs to disabled people!

If readers have any suggestions (from their experience) about how we might overcome some of the problems referred to, we would be grateful to hear from them.

Ken Lumb
Chairman
Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People
11 Anson Road
Rusholme
Manchester M14 5BY

We look into the "suspended" Attendance Allowance on page 6 – Editor

Spiritual integration *is* happening

I read Rosemary McCloskey's report (*Disability Now*, June) with interest and a little sadness. I realise, only too well, that difficulties arise for disabled people in all walks of life and in many different situations but, as a Christian, I felt that I must redress the balance of the article a little.

I have been severely disabled by Arthrogryphosis since birth, (my joints are stiff and my limbs underdeveloped so I spend a lot of time in a wheelchair).

Nearly 11 years ago we moved to this team parish and I lead a very active life within it. I have helped run the parish office and do most of the secretarial work since coming here. I was a Sunday School teacher for about 5 years (I gave this up of my own accord); have attended the Church's study courses; became a pastoral auxiliary about 8 years ago and have assisted with childrens' Missions at my own church of St Mary's and 'down the road' at St Paul's. Last year I led a study group for our Stewardship Mission.

For a number of years I have been on rota to read Lessons and lead Intercessions.

I am a member of the Guild of St Raphael and, as such , take my turn at leading meetings with Bible study or meditation. During an interregnum I helped conduct wedding interviews. I have been away on a parish weekend and a couple of Mothers' Union 'quiet days'. I am a member of a newly-formed prayer group. Last, but not least, I am a member of our Church Council – well, actually, I am the secretary!

I am not the only disabled person connected with the parish; a blind communicant is also a pastoral auxiliary and reads Lessons and is a Mothers' Union member.

Helen Pickering.

A young woman with Downs Syndrome was a fairly regular communicant until she moved several months ago. A mentally-handicapped chap occasionally turns up at St Mary's and he is kindly and courteously welcomed.

Admittedly, no-one with a mental handicap has been presented for Confirmation in my time, but I have no doubt that such people would be welcome and appropriate material prepared. Indeed, articles about the preparation of the mentally handicapped for Confirmation have appeared in the Mothers' Union magazine, *Home and Family*.

Yes, some churches are cold. St Mary's is quite a warm one though. As I have poor circulation, my hands are permanently cold, so I have learnt the trick of taking a hot-water bottle along with me!

A ramp to the church door was acquired shortly after I came and has recently been renewed.

A care centre extension is under construction which will include a toilet for disabled people.

I'm sorry to say that our church doesn't have an Induction Loop system (thank you for the reminder!) but I'm sure that it will appear on a future PCC agenda.

There is always room for improving attitudes and provision for mentally and physically disabled people in all aspects of the community, but Christians do care and they are trying.

Helen Pickering
113 Windsor Drive
High Howdon
Wallsend
Northumberland NE28 ONX

"Not terribly impressed" with the Fiat Uno

I was interested to read the article on the Fiat Uno (*DN*, April).

I have a disabled son who receives a mobility allowance and about 2½ years ago we bought a Fiat Uno. But we did not get any discount nor were we offered any.

I am not terribly impressed with the Fiat, ie it is difficult to pack the wheelchair in and getting any kind of servicing from the local Fiat service is well nigh impossible. One must be prepared to book well in advance for even minute problems; be prepared to be without transport for some considerable time and pay the costs.

So what is the alternative, bearing in mind that we can't afford a change at present? Your comments would be helpful

E.A. Ferris
42 Vale Road
Camberley, Surrey

John Byworth writes: Unfortunately the Ferris' purchase of a Fiat Uno was made before Fiat realised the potential of selling cars to disabled drivers. This they have now done and discounts are readily available. The attitude of main *dealer Fiat agents towards their disabled customers is, in my experience, extremely helpful. As I have said before, you have to shop around and find the best price and service and, most of all, the manufacturer who understands your special needs.*

(sic)

DN's diary column
by Simon Crompton

Lordy!

It was standing room only in their Lordships' supposedly stately House on 24 July, when Government whips, desperate to muster support for the flailing Social Security Bill, extracted so many forgotten peers from the woodwork that it looked like a case for Rentokil. "I just saw an uncle I thought had died years ago," one member was overheard to say. Others apparently emerged looking puzzled, enquiring "What was that all about?"

Not least of those confused by the baffling number of amendments tabled to the Bill was Baroness Trumpington, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the DHSS, who led the debate at the Report stage on 14 July. Having talked for over 5 minutes on amendment 41, she ground to an embarrassed halt as she realised that everyone else had been addressing amendment 40. The worrying thing was that no-one else seemed to notice.

Responding to a proposed amendment on Death Grant, the same unfortunate peeress is alleged to have described it as a "pay as you go benefit".

Unsporting

The Commonwealth Games must have been the biggest sporting flop for a long time, but it wasn't the only athletics event to be riven by political controversy last month. At the 35th International Wheelchair Games held at Stoke Mandeville, the Iranian team was expelled for staging political demonstrations on the track. And having waved their pictures of the Ayatollah Khomeini around and denounced imperialism in general, they faced accusations that they weren't as disabled as they pretended to be anyway. Geoff Dawson, a games official, was reported as saying "I saw them training and they were doing exercises that able-bodied sportsmen would have difficulty with. Then they saw me and suddenly started limping away to their wheelchairs."

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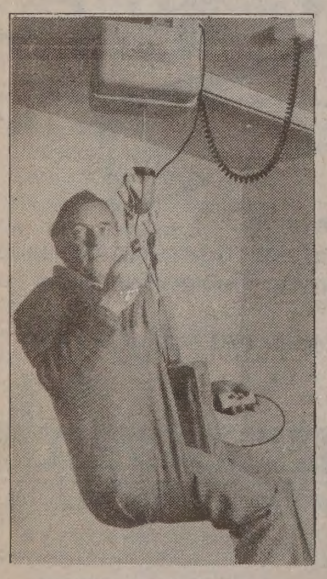

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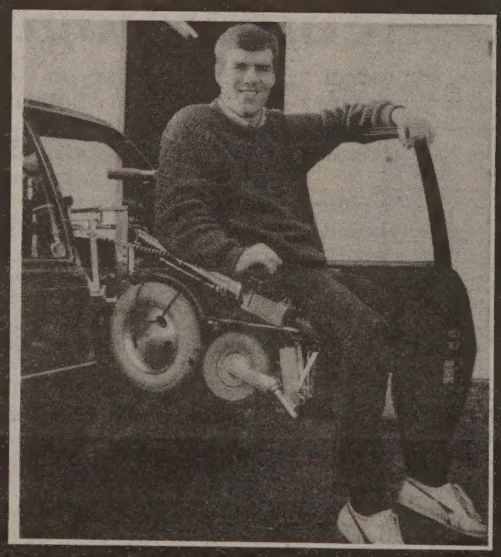

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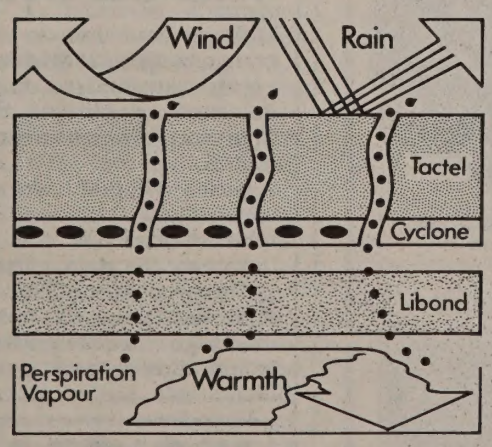

The muff has been designed to give you plenty of leg room and it extends halfway up your back, so there's no chance of rain or wind driving in. Two robust cords anchor it firmly to the chair's push handles, so you won't slip out. There's a full length rapid ringpull zip plus a roomy pocket inside the waist flap for valuables.

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They're on their way . . .

Former leader of the Greater London Council Ken Livingstone made sure there was no flagging at the off of the 35-day Britain and Ireland Cycling Expedition on 26 August. The disabled cyclists are raising money for Cerebral Palsy Overseas.

Disabled people set up their own arts forum

Sian Vasey of Artsline reports

The Disability Arts Forum day held on 26 July at The Albany Empire theatre in Lewisham was attended by well over 100 people, and achieved its goal of setting up a Steering Group to work on the establishment of a London Disability Arts Forum.

The day consisted firstly of a variety of entertainment from disabled performers such as Special Jam, Kate Portal, The National Youth Theatre of the Deaf, Jag Plah and Isobel Ward. There was an exhibition of visual art by disabled artists. And there was a discussion on what disabled people want from a Disability Arts Forum.

The many and various issues raised at the discussion included the nature of art done by disabled people and who judges it. Some people felt very strongly that we need more encouragement to express our experiences as disabled people through art.

Concern was voiced about whether the forum would be making rules about disability art. I hope it came out clearly from the discussion that this would not be the case.

Some people were concerned about the issue of ghettoisation, but the main feeling of the meeting was that we have to acknowledge the fact that we are segregated by society, and that the formation of a forum will help us tackle that problem. Other topics that came up were how to deal with the issue of charity, whether art includes leisure, and the Arts Council Code of Practice.

There was much discussion on the wording of the resolution that came out of the meeting. The final product was as follows: "The London Disability Arts Forum is to be a representative body to clarify, explore and define disability arts. To provide a forum for disabled artists, spectators and their supporters to further the integration, participation and representation of disabled people in the arts irrespective of their race, age, disability, gender, sexual orientation or whether they are lesbian or gay."

Twenty-two interested individuals came to the Steering Group's first meeting on 28 August, when we considered issues such as publicity. Do we want a press conference with famous personalities to lure the press into giving us coverage? Or are we risking too many headlines of the "Handicap no bar to actor" variety, which miss the point that it is not our individual disabilities that are the problem, but the oppression we live under.

Contact Sian Vasey for more information or if you are interested in joining the Steering Group. Artsline, 5 Crowndale Rd, London NW1. Tel: *01-388 2227.*

War on orange badge abuse

Tighter controls on issuing orange badges for disabled drivers are contained in a discussion document published by the Transport Department last month.

Nearly 800,000 badges are in use – about 1 car in 20 – and relatives or friends of the badge-holder are the main misusers.

The proposals include having a photograph of the holder on the badge and distinguishing between driver and passenger badges. Abuses for which the badge can be withdrawn will be re-defined.

★The Spastics Society's new poster, inserted with *DN* this month, makes a timely point. It shows a disabled parking space and asks, "Is this the only time you ever put yourself in our place?"

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Share your problems by phone

If you want advice on a personal or spiritual problem, why not talk to Lin Berwick, *Disability Now's* telephone counsellor, who is disabled herself?

Lin is at the end of the line on Monday afternoons from 1pm to 5pm, and on Thursdays from 6pm to 10pm.

Her telephone number is Hornchurch (04024) 58325.

Benefit changes – do they apply to you?

Tony Newton, Minister for Social Security and the Disabled, announced several changes to the Industrial Injuries Scheme last month which are effective from 1 September.

The Scheme's main benefit is disablement benefit which becomes payable if the claimant is still disabled 15 weeks after the accident or the onset of a prescribed disease.

- The Scheme will be extended to a wider range of cases of occupational asthma.
- There will be improved rights of appeal for people who make unsuccessful claims for benefit for pneumoconiosis and byssinosis.
- The scheme will be extended to cover all countries and all workers liable to pay National Insurance contributions. This will include volunteer development workers if they have chosen to pay a special new rate of contribution.

There are also changes introduced in the new Social Security 1986, which will take effect from 1 October.

- Payments for minor disablement – assessed at less than 14 per cent – will be discontinued except for cases of pneumoconiosis, byssinosis and mesothelioma.
- Disablement assessed at between 14 per cent and 19 per cent will qualify for a pension at the 20 per cent rate.

Compensation for loss of earnings, currently called "special hardship allowance" will be renamed "reduced earnings allowance.".

From April 1987, reduced earnings allowance will be payable in addition to the industrial disablement benefit at every level of disablement.

Sharon Hill demonstrates how to bring the chair to the car.

Independence by remote control – if a manufacturer is found

Merle Davies tries a prototype wheelchair device.

At Portsmouth DIAL I have just tested a remote control system for electric wheelchairs which could make all the difference for disabled people who want to live independently.

The Pegasus is a small box which fits on to the arm of an electric wheelchair. The joystick control guides the wheelchair or, when removed, operates it by remote control – up to 20 yards indoors or 60-70 yards outside.

Imagine going to work. You go to the car in your chair, transfer to the car, remove the Pegasus box and send the chair back to the porch or garage. Back home again, you "send" for the chair.

It also makes going to the loo more dignified. Instead of having to ask someone to remove the chair before the door can be closed, you can use the Pegasus to back the chair out, then close the door, and summon it later. These are just two uses that spring to mind.

Anyone who can control an electric wheelchair should be able to operate the Pegasus. It can be transferred from one wheelchair to another and is suitable for virtually all makes.

The idea for this small box came from a local REMAP panel and Portsmouth DIAL and was developed by trainee engineers from Marconi Underwater Systems. The prototype was officially handed over to Pat Saunders, director of Portsmouth Dial, last month. Now he has to find a manufacturer. Is anyone interested?

The Pegasus will probably cost about £100. This would be a small price to pay for more independent living.

Geldof's Band Aid rocks Charity statistics

The "Geldof phenomenon" helped to boost voluntary donations to charity by 25 per cent last year (1984/85), according to the latest *Charity Statistics 1985/86* published last month.

The Band Aid Trust entered the "charts" only to leap immediately into Number 1 place with an income of £56.5m.

Two big international aid agencies, Oxfam and Save the Children Fund, were swept along as well and took second and third place, pushing the National Trust into fourth place, followed by the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. Both the Cancer Research Campaign and the Imperial Cancer Reseach Fund dropped back but were still in the "top ten".

Agencies in the medical and health sectors grew in real terms by only 2 per cent, and in the general welfare category by 6 per cent. Dr Barnado's was No 8 in the charts with a total voluntary income of £19.47m. The Spastics Society retained its position at No 12 with £12.46m, with the RNIB just behind.

But when it came to total expenditure, the National trust was first with £56.3m, followed by Dr Barnado's, £33m and The Spastics Society, £31.4m.

Corporate giving rose in real terms last year by 9.5 per cent, the biggest givers again being IBM, BP, Barclays Bank, National Westminster Bank and Marks and Spencer. But it still only amounted to a paltry 0.2 per cent of pre-tax profits. (The effect of the Budget concessions on corporate giving will not be apparent until next year.)

Grant aid by central government departments increased by 17 per cent (to £224.4m), the DHSS increasing its spending by 22 per cent. The Manpower Services Commission dominated grants made by quango bodies with a total of £414.6m.

Local authority funding to voluntary organisations rose broadly in line with central government, an increase of 19 per cent (up to £266.7m) on grants and 9 per cent (up to £162.6m) on fees in real terms. This still represents only 0.1 per cent of local authority gross spending.

For the first time *Charity Statistics* included a breakdown of health authority funding to the voluntary sector. The total of £10.4m represents only 0.01 per cent of health authority total spending.

"The impression which emerges is of wide fluctuation between authorities in their attitudes towards the voluntary sector and their practice in funding it", commented Michael Brophy, director of the Charities Aid Foundation.

Charity Statistics 1985/86, *Publications Department, Charities Aid Foundation, 48 Pembury Road, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 2JD, £17 (including p&p).*

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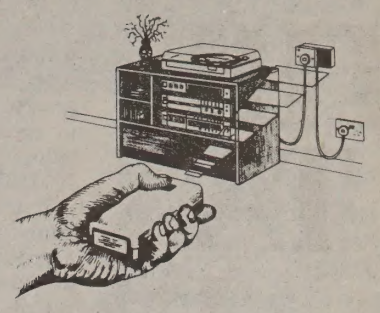

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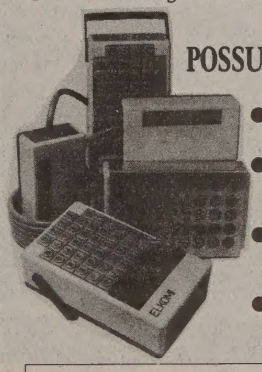

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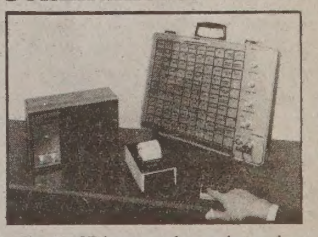
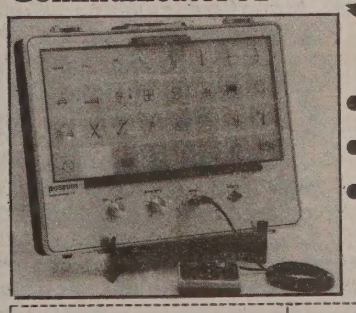


- The 100SP has speech or print options and . . .
- Memory locations each storing 250 selections.

NEW

Communicator 32



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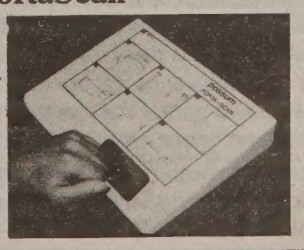

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Has the DHSS suspended Attendance Allowance when you get a job?

Linda Avery, The Spastics Society's benefits expert, explains the situation

"The DHSS has suspended Attendance Allowances – one appointee was told 'you lose the allowance automatically when you get a job', whilst another was informed that the change of circumstances warrants investigation. It now appears to be systematic that allowances are suspended when a disabled person gets a job"

(Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People, from page 2)

Although the GMCDP letter rather overstates the situation, it is nevertheless true that starting work is creating difficulties for people with disabilities who are in receipt of Attendance Allowance.

This is not new.

If there is a "change of circumstances", then an award of Attendance Allowance is always subject to review.

Unfortunately, starting a job is always deemed as change of circumstances. This was challenged by the Disability Alliance last year. They argued that starting a job was not a *material* change of circumstances for a benefit which did not depend on incapacity for work and, therefore, there was no basis for reviewing an award of Attendance Allowance. In February 1985 the Social Security Commissioners rejected that argument.

There are several problems here.

First, starting a job *suggests* the possibility that a person's condition might have improved, or their need for attendance may have lessened.

Second, both claimants and local DHSS officers can also be responsible – through ignorance – for effectively "stopping" the allowance.

It is often the case that people with disabilities have double order benefit books – that is, their benefit book covers both Supplementary Benefit and Attendance Allowance. On starting a job, the book has to be returned to the DHSS – to stop the SB payment – and local officers do not always realise that the Attendance Allowance portion may still be required.

In addition, claimants themselves do not always realise the importance of explaining that, though they have started work, their attendance needs have not changed.

Sally Robertson, Rights Worker at the Disability Alliance, advises her clients to "explain in detail what special arrangements are being made to meet your care needs during working hours."

The message, then, is that when you write to the DHSS to say you are starting work, don't just state that as a bald fact.

- Explain that your condition has not changed.
- Explain that you still need the same *type* of attendance you have been receiving.
- Make it very clear that *nothing* has changed – you have just been lucky enough to find an employer.

Fairplay

Maggie Woolley is chair of Fairplay (Campaign for Equal Opportunities in the Arts). Last month's *DN* should have read, "Chris Davies, the newly appointed *vice*-chairman . . ."

possum
Possum Controls Limited

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Possum Controls Limited announce the commencement of a new 2-day training course for anyone who is concerned with the welfare and care of disabled and elderly people. The first course is on Wednesday/Thursday 24th/25th September 1986 and thereafter will be held on the last Wednesday/Thursday of each month.

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Contact – Mrs E. Hains/Mrs R. Goldthorp on Slough (0753) 79234.

Cost – £120.00 + VAT per person which includes one night in a local hotel and meals).

Application forms giving full details of the course, are available from Possum Controls now.

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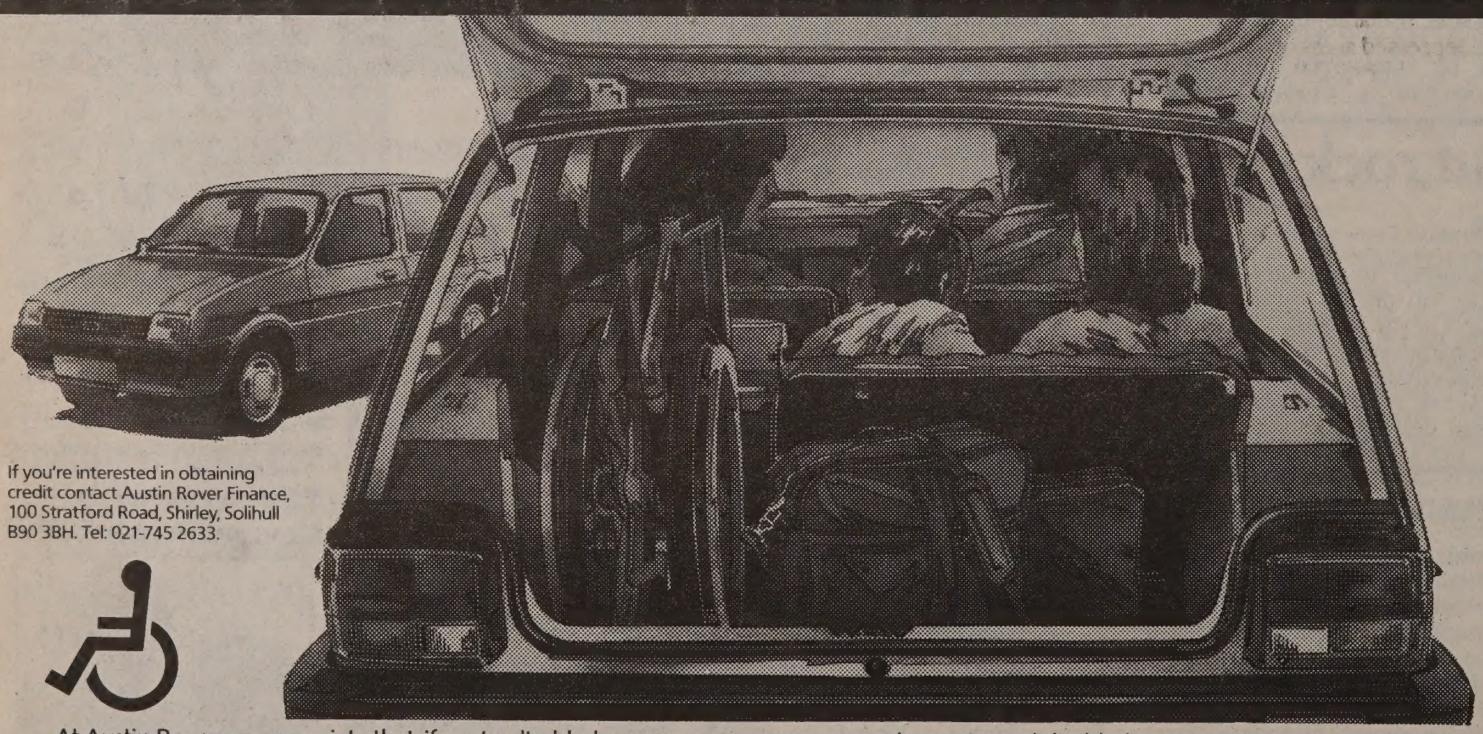

If you're interested in obtaining credit contact Austin Rover Finance, 100 Stratford Road, Shirley, Solihull B90 3BH. Tel: 021-745 2633.

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Please send me details of your mobility scheme.

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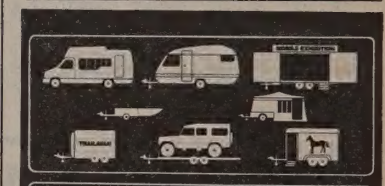
Address _____

AUSTIN ROVER Mobility Scheme DN/9/86



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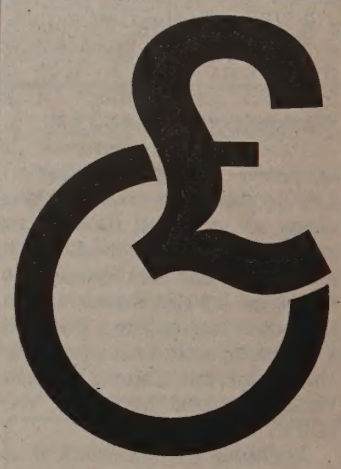

There's no such thing as a free lunch – and *Disability Now* is no exception.

The newspaper costs The Spastics Society 40p a copy or £4.80 for a year's supply. At the moment it comes to you free.

If you enjoy reading *Disability Now* and would like to see it continue, please send us a donation. £1 or £1,000, everything is welcome!

Please make out cheques and postal orders to The Spastics Society, and send them to

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Disability Now
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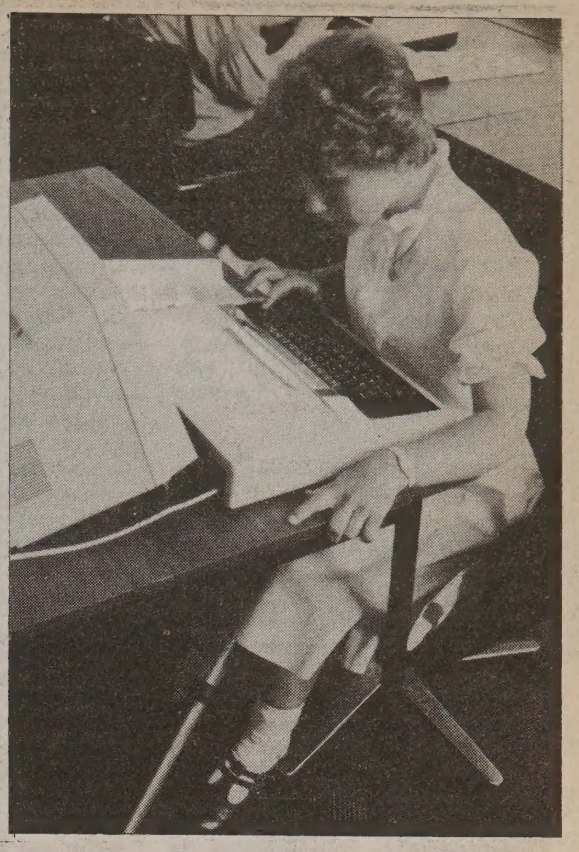


Why YTS is not meeting the needs of young disabled people

A new survey, published last month, reveals the weakness of the Youth Training Scheme. Judith Male, senior policy officer at RADAR, explains

It is a little over three years since the Youth Training Scheme (YTS) replaced the Youth Opportunities Programme (YOP) as the major national training scheme for young people. From being a one-year scheme it was expanded in April 1986 into a two-year scheme. It is still relatively new and still evolving.

Past experience of YOP and other schemes taught the voluntary agencies that young people with disabilities do not receive equal opportunities unless their special needs are consciously recognised by the training providers. This time we were not to be caught out and within the first twelve months of YTS disabled young people were allowed to join courses up to the age of 21 (the usual limit is 17) and courses could be extended up to 6 months.

Undoubtedly these special arrangements helped many young people.

But after three years two fundamental questions remained unanswered:

- How effective is YTS in helping young people with disabilities?
- What happens at the end of the training?

The Manpower Services Commission (MSC) did not have the answers and referred RADAR to the careers service which is responsible for placing young people on the schemes.

The Institute of Careers Officers also lacked this information, so together we undertook a survey of careers officers in England and Wales asking for both statistical details and also for their views on YTS.

At the end of last year questionnaires were sent to 98 principal careers officers and 80 (82 per cent) responded. However, only half were able to provide the full range of statistical information we asked for, so the resulting figures can only be a guide to the national situation.

Until April this year YTS was delivered in three modes – A, B1 and B2.

Mode A was the employer-based training and the MSC aimed to provide 75 per cent of the YTS training via this mode.

Mode B1 was "project type" provision in workshops, community projects and Information Technology Centres (ITECs) and catered for about 20 per cent of trainees.

The smallest programme, for 5 per cent of the trainees, was B2 which usually operated through further education colleges.

In practice, Mode A schemes were more favoured by trainees because they were more likely to lead to employment. The Mode B schemes were for young people who needed extra time and help before entering a more competitive environment and for those where no Mode A training was available, eg in many of the depressed areas of the North.

Some very good schemes were developed for young people with disabilities under the Mode B training. They provided good quality and appropriate training for some youngsters, but the choice was limited and they were not suitable for all young people with disabilities (much the same argument as applies to special schools).

Our survey considered young people who took part in YTS during the first two years.

We found that in each year approximately 40 per cent of those who had physical disabilities or sensory impairment entered the Mode A type schemes with direct training on employers' premises. When this is compared with the general percentage (75 per cent), it is clear that those with disabilities were not receiving the same opportunities as other trainees. For those with learning difficulties the figures were lower still – only 15 per cent of this group received Mode A training.

With the statistics sounding alarm bells, we then looked at the quality of the training.

YTS is divided into two components: on-the-job and off-the-job training. Most young people chose their course on the basis of the on-the-job training, ie the practical component offered by the employer, which may be engineering, catering, building or whatever skill the young person wishes to develop.

In most instances it seemed that this element of training was satisfactory though there were some notable exceptions in the North where the lack of employment opportunities in general was reflected in the limited choice of schemes under YTS.

More often than not it was the off-the-job training which caused complaints. Off-the-job training was usually supplied by local further education colleges and "bought-in" in blocks for groups of trainees. Such arrangements were often inflexible and could not accommodate young people who had special learning needs.

We received comments such as, "There is little extra provision for the deaf in further education and this means that although the practical element is right, the theoretical and further education element may be completely unintelligible to them".

This is a dramatic example. But it illustrates the point made many times that if young people with disabilities are to have effective training, their courses must be tailor-made to meet the needs of the individual.

The second major problem identified by careers officers was that trainers did not understand the implications of different disabling conditions. Staff on many of the "special" schemes did understand and adapted the training to take account of, for example, the effects of epilepsy. But most trainers on the mainstream schemes were not equipped to do this.

For the trainees, the ultimate test of the success of their YTS placement was whether they obtained a job.

Our figures suggested that approximately one-third went on to open employment. A further one-third entered other vocational training centres, sheltered employment or further education and the remaining one-third were unemployed with no further provision available to them.

The figures are probably somewhat optimistic. Several careers officers pointed out that although some trainees obtained work immediately after their course, it was not necessarily permanent and a number returned to careers offices a few weeks later in search of work.

The introduction of 2-year YTS brings further opportunities for young people with disabilities.

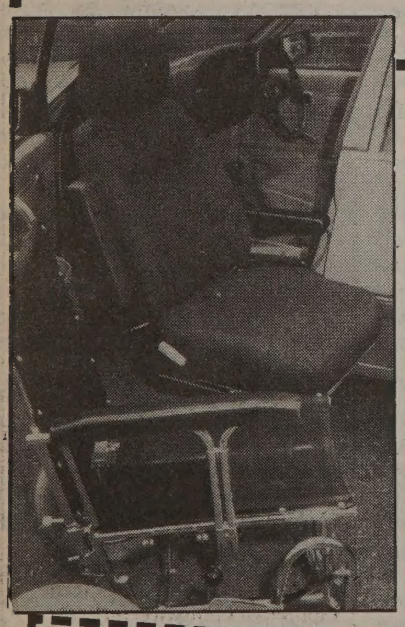
The MSC has made considerable efforts to try to help this group of young people receive appropriate training but they are hampered by two major difficulties:

- many training staff do not understand disability
- there is inadequate funding to ensure that each trainee receives individual training which takes account of his/her individual needs.

Until these shortcomings are tackled seriously, YTS will remain of limited value to young people with disabilities.

The ICO/RADAR report, The Youth Training Scheme and School Leavers with Special Needs, *is available from The Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation, 25 Mortimer Street, London W1N 8AB, £1.50 (including p&p).*

The 180° Travel Seat



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Don't ask me to change my child.

Brian Stratford argues that it is time society accepted people with Down's Syndrome: they have a lot to teach us*

Down's Syndrome is caused by the presence of an extra chromosome; an addition to pair 21, the smallest of the chromosomes in the human karyotype. This cytogenetic, clinical explanation was only revealed some 27 years ago.

The condition is now frequently described in the literature as "a genetic error", yet I want to argue that this is not so much an error but is in fact a perfectly normal phenomenon in the rich and varied spectrum of human existence. Unfortunately, and particularly so for the parents of such children, society has not yet learned how to accommodate itself to this multinational minority group.

An obstacle to embracing Down's Syndrome as part of our richer biological inheritance is the insistence on describing the condition under the category of a disease.

When we examine the disease model, we can see that it is quite inadequate. The very conditions which eliminate or reduce diseases like smallpox or cholera – better health care, better housing, better sanitation, more attention to social welfare and so on – all go towards increasing the chances for survival of children with Down's Syndrome.

Undoubtedly, children with Down's Syndrome are weaker in almost every aspect of human development, physical, medical and intellectual, but it does seem paradoxical that as advances are made in our understanding of each or any of these major areas of human development, this knowledge only goes towards increasing the life chances of children with Down's Syndrome without curing the "disease".

We have become so accustomed in our scientific age to examining human attributes and qualities by reference to a microscope or a test of intelligence that we have somehow forgotten how to see human values in terms of the whole child, either through our eyes or our common sense. This has to some extent clouded the vision of our mind and our capacity for compassion and appreciation of wider human relationships and values.

Let us for a moment look back into the history of mankind, when, though the times might have been cruel and primitive in many respects, there were no tests of intelligence, and values were rarely determined by appearance and never by the application of a light metre to the human skin.

The Olmec culture, which existed in Mexico around 1500 BC recognised those with what we now call Down's Syndrome and regarded them as belonging to the Deity. In 15th Century Mantua, in an age not known for its tolerance, there is evidence to suggest that a Down's Syndrome infant represented the ultimate standard of innocence and goodness: it is a Down's child, no less, who depicts the infant Jesus in a famous painting of a Madonna and Child by Mantegna.

In my long encounter with Down's Syndrome children I have reached the conclusion that they *do* conform to a quite particular kind of archetype. Not so much in appearance, although a Down's Syndrome person might be easily identified by physical appearance; not by cognitive development or any other kind of measureable intellectual behaviour, this is too wide – wider in fact than that of the so-called normal population – but by personality.

Whilst there are many kinds of expression of personality in the Down's Syndrome population, there exists a kind of common characteristic that I can only describe as an incredible capacity for love and forgiveness.

I am aware that it is "scientifically" unpopular to embrace this concept of people with Down's Syndrome at the present time, but I have to say that my personal experience of many hundreds of these people in many nations and for more than 20 years leads me to envy the kind of human qualities they have exhibited to me. I have to ask myself why this should be.

It is natural that we should find this situation uncomfortable, for as long as we hold intellectual qualities so high in our esteem we will continue to fail to see the more human qualities in those who are measurably lacking in this respect.

Human kindness, love and affection are seen now only as fairly commendable appendices to the more important attributes of intellectual excellence and commercial success. Our Down's Syndrome people will never demonstrate the latter qualities, but neither will they design nuclear weapons or create economic destruction through personal greed.

Little by little we are beginning to learn something from the "little clowns of God"; but at the same time we are attempting to destroy them before we have completely learnt what they have to teach us.

Apart from the depressing reflection of ourselves that emerged from the case of Dr. Arthur, when a paediatrician was generally applauded for attempting to rid the world of one of these infants; apart from the ready acceptance that pre-natal diagnosis is seen as an automatic prelude to "therapeutic" abortion, we are now seriously debating an issue which changes nothing except the physical appearance of people with Down's Syndrome. To use the technical skills of plastic surgery to put out of sight that which we do not wish to know is a sad reflection on the society in which we live.

"If society finds it difficult to accommodate the child with Down's Syndrome, it is society which needs to change"

At an international conference in Mexico City in 1983, a session on plastic surgery in Down's Syndrome was interrupted by an Argentinian mother who appealed, "Don't ask me to change my child. I love her as she is."

I felt that this mother was speaking for the majority of parents all over the world. The pity is that parents of Down's children are being put under pressure by society to believe that acceptance depends on their children undergoing a drastic change in physical appearance.

The distinctive epicanthic folds which characterize Down's Syndrome children *can* be removed by plastic surgery. But what is so unattractive about this feature? Two-thirds of the population of the world have such features but no one suggests that teams of plastic surgeons should set up practice in the Far East.

It is not the shape of the eyes which are causing problems, it is the irrational fear of mental handicap, and in the Down's child, with his particular appearance, this archetypal "mongolian" feature arouses these atavistic fears. It must not be imagined that once these have been removed all the social stigma attached to Down's Syndrome will go with them.

There is some virtue in the operation to reduce the size of the tongue when this is over-enlarged, as it is in *some* Down's children. Although there is as yet no sound evidence, it could be that such intervention might improve articulation. It certainly prevents dribbling and soreness about the mouth and of course it is also cosmetic.

I can certainly sympathise with a mother who feels the need to hide her child even to the extent of changing its face in order to protect it, but how is that mother, who loves her child, going to feel when she realises that she has rejected her child's *persona* and attempted to replace it with another and how is the child going to feel about this? And all in an effort to accommodate unaccepting people anyway.

If society finds it difficult to accommodate the child with Down's Syndrome it is society which needs to change and not the child. Maybe this is part of the mission of the child with Down's Syndrome. Maybe we have altogether missed his usefulness. Maybe our Down's Syndrome children can be instrumental in helping to bring about a better society.

I know it is difficult and it is a great deal easier to change the minority to fit the needs of the majority, but the majority are often wrong.

Brian Stratford, PhD, ABPsS, is lecturer in special education at the University of Nottingham School of Education, research adviser to the Down's Children's Association and chairman of the Research Council, Down's Syndrome Association of Great Britain.

* This article is reprinted with permission from *Values*, a magazine concerned with social and personal values in schools and the community, published 3 times a year by RMEP, Hennock Road, Exeter EX2 8RP.

Courtesy of Special Children

Before and after: a girl who had plastic surgery in Israel supervised by Professor Reuven Feuerstein.

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What's new at naidex'86?

Naidex, the national aids for disabled people exhibition, will be held this year at the Alexandra Pavilion in Wood Green, London on 15, 16 and 17 October. In this special 4-page pull-out we list all the companies and organisations that will be exhibiting and point to some of the new products that will be on show. Opening times are 10am to 5.15pm, 10am to 4.30pm on Friday. If you can't get to the exhibition, the names and addresses may be of use to you.

The Alexandra Pavilion, venue for this year's Naidex.

WHEELCHAIRS

Andrews Maclaren Ltd, Station Works, Long Buckby, Northampton NN6 7PF. *Tel:* (0327) 842662. *Stand 235*

British Association of Wheelchair Distributors, D Smytheman, Ashley Mobility, Hay Road, Hay Mills, Birmingham B25 8HY. *Tel:* 021-772 5364. The Association, representing over 40 UK distributors, aims to promote the interests of disabled people and provide corporate responsibility to the public according to a published code of practice. *Stand 299*

Bromakin Ltd, 6 Seward Street, Loughborough, Leicestershire LE11 3BU. *Tel:* (0509) 217569. *Stands 216 & 217*

Carters (J & A) Ltd, Alfred Street, Westbury, Wilts BA13 3XZ. *Tel:* (0373) 822203. *Stands 137-140, 187-190*

Chairpower Ltd, 20 Crescent Lane, Bath BA1 2PU. *Tel:* (0225) 337369. *Stand 186*

Crest Aids for the Disabled, Greenhill Lane, Rownhams, Southampton SO1 8AN. *Tel:* (0703) 732516. *Stands 243*

DHSS, Block 1, Government Buildings, Warbeck Hill Road, Blackpool FY2 0UY. *Tel:* (0253) 52311. *Stands 53-61*

Mobility Aids Centre, 88 South Street, Stanground, Peterborough. *Tel:* (0733) 44930. *Stands 286 & 296*

Newton Products, Meadway Works, Garratts Green Lane, Birmingham B33 0SQ.*Tel:* 021-783 6081. *Stand 250*

Nicholls Care Centre, Soothouse Spring, Valley Road Industrial Estate, St Albans, Herts. *Tel:* (0727) 34255. *Stand 72*

Remploy – Wheelchair Division, Jubilee Industrial Estate, Ashington, Northumberland NE16 8UE. *Tel:* (0670) 813383. *Stands 21, 22, 25 & 26*

BEC Mobility's new Lite Range manual wheelchair.

WHEELCHAIRS/ SCOOTERS

Batricar Ltd, Griffin Mill, Thrupp, Stroud, Glos GL5 2AX. *Tel:* (0453) 882243. *Stands 22-25*

Beard Bros, Unit 2, The Crystal Centre, Elmgrove Road, Harrow HA1 2HS. *Tel:* 01-861 4070. *Stand 71*

BEC Mobility, Fens Poole Avenue, Wallows Industrial Estate, Brierly Hill, West Midlands DY15 1QA. *Tel:* (0384) 263191. Getting their first public viewing are the BEC Lite Range – lightweight, affordable hand-powered chairs – and the new Scootaplus with updated drive system. *Stands 312, 313, 324 & 325*

Booster Electric Vehicles, Bridge Works, Woodhead Road, Honley, Huddersfield HD7 2PW. *Tel:* (0484) 666300. *Stand 272*

Chair Up Ltd, Building 75, Bournemouth Airport, Christchurch, Dorset. *Tel:* (0202) 579737. *Stand 294*

Everaids Ltd, 38 Clifton Road, Cambridge CB1 4ZT. *Tel:* (0223) 243336. *Stand 316*

Everest & Jennings Ltd, Princewood Road, Earlstree Industrial Estate, Corby, Northants NN17 2DX. *Tel:* (0536) 67661. The company will display its manual and electric wheelchair range, and other mobility aids including the popular Runaround battery-powered vehicle. *Stands 96 & 122*

Fortress Scientific, 3750 Chesswood Drive, Downsview, Ontario, Canada M3J 2W6. *Tel:* (416) 636 8000. Featuring the 655FS Power Wheelchair with modular design, the 1000FS Add On Power System, which converts a manual chair into a power chair, and the 2000FS 3-wheeled power chair. *Stands 317-320*

Ortho-Kinetics (UK) Ltd, Gaffney House, 190 Commercial Road, Totton, Southampton, Hants SO4 3ZZ. *Tel:* (0703) 866323. *Stand 168*

Raymar, PO Box 16, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon RG9 1AG. *Tel:* (0491) 578446. Raymar is launching its new 3-wheeler battery-operated scooter, the Solo, which quickly dismantles into 4 parts. *Stands 9, 10 & 11*

Gerald Simonds Wheelchairs, 9 March Place, Gatehouse Way, Aylesbury, Bucks HP19 3UG. *Tel:* (0296) 36557. On show will be the Quickie range of chairs, the Nova rollator walking aid and the light, portable Kuschall Special. *Stands 104, 105, 114 & 115*

Please note . . .
The categories in this listing are meant only as a general guide to help people find what they want. Many manufacturers produce equipment other than that of their category.

Everest & Jennings new Buggie

HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT

British Gas Corporation, 326 High Holborn, London WC1V 7PT. *Tel:* 01-242 0789. *Stands 62-66*

Electricity Council, 30 Millbank, London SW1P 4BD. *Tel:* 01-834 2333. The Council will be highlighting simple-to-use electric appliances and controls. *Stands 142, 143, 184 & 185.*

Goldene Designs Ltd, 7c Moss Lane, Whitefield, Manchester M25 7PB. *Tel:* 061-796 9367. On display will be the company's latest design the 'Helping Hand Trolley'. *Stand 15.*

Homecraft Supplies Ltd, Low Moor Estate, Kirkby in Ashfield, Notts. *Tel:* (0623) 754047. *Stands 196, 197, 233 & 234.*

Leo's Contract Flooring, 395 Preston Old Road, Cherry Tree, Blackburn BB2 5LN. *Tel:* (0254) 22292/3. *Stand 293*

Mycoal Warm Packs Ltd, PO Box 43, London SW10 9BZ. The company will be exhibiting their hand, foot and body warmer packs.

Nicholls & Clarke, Niclar House, 3/10 Shoreditch High Street, London E1 6PE. *Tel:* 01-247 5432. The company will be displaying their range of bathroom and kitchen fittings. *Stands 157, 170 & 171.*

Ollerton Hall Decor, Knutsford, Cheshire. *Tel:* (0565) 2470. The company will be exhibiting their range of stain resistant carpets. *Stand 195.*

Orange Aids, Haven, Eel Pie Island, Twickenham, Middlesex. *Tel:* 01-892 1850. *Stand 291*

Radleys, London Road, Sawbridgeworth, Herts CM21 9JH. *Tel:* (0279) 722661. On display will be the Maddak range of small aids for people with disabilities such as the Arthwriter, the Inner Lip Plate and the sloped Toilet Seat. *Stand 313.*

RFSU Rehab, Box 17006, S-10462,

How to get there . . .

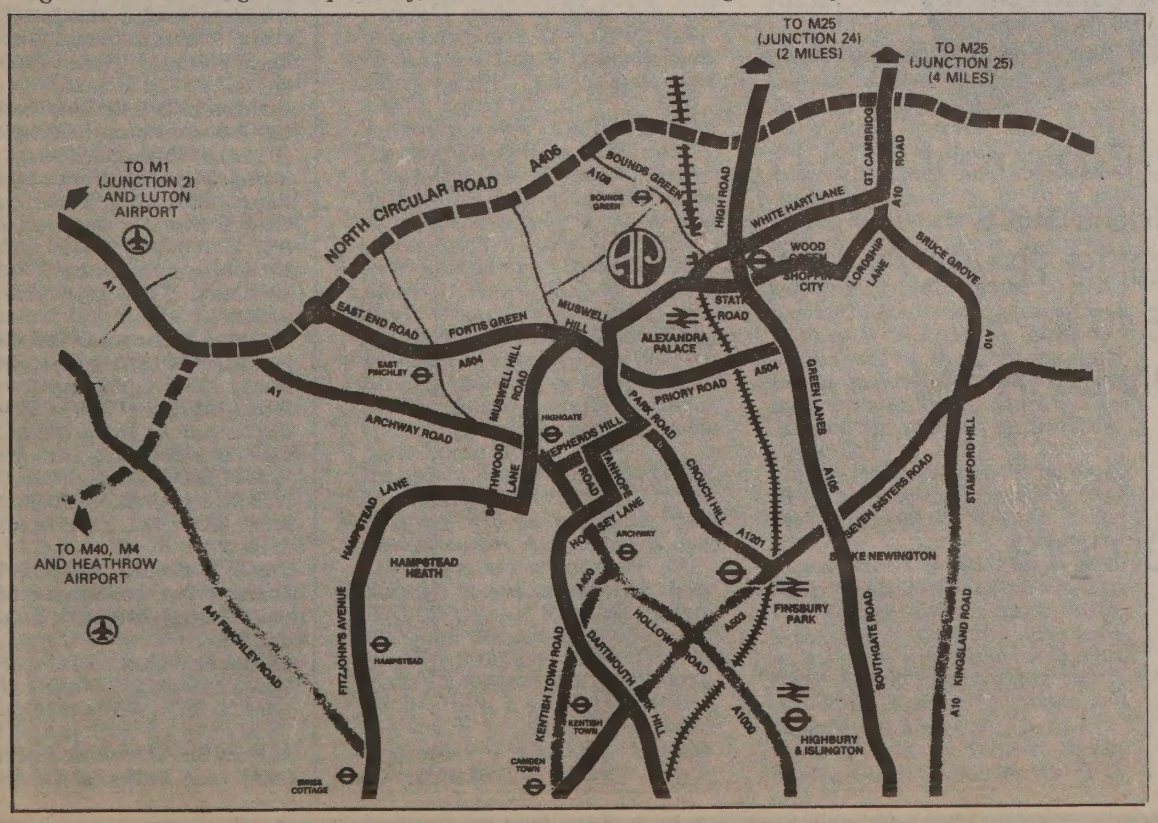
Road: *Ample free parking. Parking for vehicles displaying orange disabled sticker next to Alexandra Pavilion.*

Rail: *Alexandra Palace station, on main and suburban line from Kings Cross and Moorgate. A special convention rate has been organised with British Rail – details from Naidex Conventions Ltd, Convex House, 43 Dudley Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 1LE. Tel: (0892) 44027.*

Underground: *From the centre of London, take the Victoria, Piccadilly, Circle or Northern line to Highbury & Islington, and change to the British Rail line for Alexandra Palace.*

Bus: *A free shuttle bus will run from Alexandra Palace station to the exhibition.*

Access: *There are flights of steps at both Alexandra Palace and Finsbury Park British Rail stations.*



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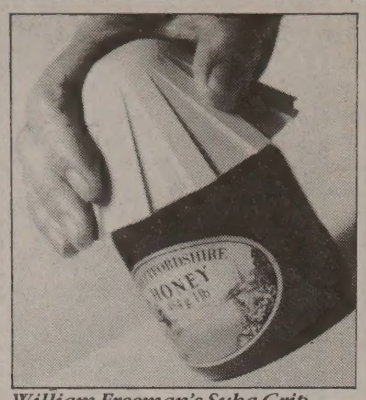
Stockholm 17, Sweden. *Tlx:* 14359 RFSU-S. *Stands 220 & 221.*

Ridley Electronics Ltd, 206 Wrightman Road, Hornsey, London N8. *Tel:* 01-340 9501. *Stand 279*

Stannah Ltd. Watt Close, East Portway, Andover, Hants. *Tel:* (0298) 2365. The company will exhibit the new Mark II Tryad Mini Bathroom and the Helpmate Select-a-shelf from their range of Homecare products, *Stands 153-155, 172-174.*

Voice Control Ltd, 7 The Quay, St Ives, Cambridge PE17 4AR. *Tel:* (0480) 300348. The company will be demonstrating their Voice Activated Domestic Appliance System (VADAS) which is a self-contained microprocessor-controlled voice recognition and mains signalling system. *Stand 4.*

William Freeman & Co Ltd, Suba-



William Freeman's Suba Grip

Seal Works, Staincross, Barnsley. *Tel:* (0226) 284081. The company will be exhibiting its full range of Suba-Care products for bed-fast people, including feeding dishes, shower mats, head rests and hot water bottles. *Stands 123-124*

VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

The Family Fund, PO Box 50, York YO1 1UY. *Tel:* (0904) 21115. *Stand 302*

John Grooms Association for Disabled, 10 Gloucester Drive, Finsbury Park, London N4 2LP. *Tel:* 01-802 7272. *Stand 13.*

Muscular Dystrophy Group of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Nattrass House, 35 Macaulay Road, London SW4 0QP. *Tel:* 01-720 8055 *Stand 3*

RADAR, 25 Mortimer Street, London W1N 8AB. *Tel:* 01-637 5400. *Stands 79-82.*

The Royal National Institute for the Deaf, 105 Gower Street, London WC1E 6AH. *Tel:* 01-387 8033. *Stand 254*

Save the Children/Playtrac. The Harperbury Hospital, Harper Lane, Shenley, Nr Radlett, Herts WD7 9HQ. *Tel:* (09276) 4861 ext 40. *Stand 111*

The Spastics Society, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ. *Tel:* 01-636 5020. *Stand 305.*

Tadworth Court Trust, Tadworth Children's Hospital, Tadworth, Surrey KT20 5RU. *Tel:* (07373) 57171. *Stand 279B*

Vocal, 336 Brixton Road, London SW9 7AA. *Tel:* 01-274 4029. *Stand 290*

BEDS

GP Care Systems Ltd, 14 Golden Square, London W1R 3AG. *Tel:* 01-434 2066. *Stand 245*

Marcon Bed Elevators, Turnblade Ltd, PO Box 31, Dorking, Surrey RH5 5SU. *Tel:* (030678) 382. Marcon are unveiling the latest model of bed elevator, which converts any type of bed into a fully automatic, adjustable bed. *Stand 158*

Mediscus Products Inc, Westminster Road, Wareham, Dorset BH20 4SP. *Tel:* (09295) 6311. *Stand 225*

Peter Evans Associates, Golf Course Road, North Road, Bath BA2 6JG. *Tel:* (0225) 63626/63922. The new model of the Repose Rocking Bed will be on show, designed to assist breathing and for use on the ward and at home. *Stand 118*

Sidhil Hospital Furniture, Boothtown, Halifax, West Yorks HX3 6NT. *Tel:* (0422) 63447. New at the show is the range of Nursing and Home Care Beds, and the latest Sidhil Kings Fund Bed. Also the new Tilt Top Overbed Table. *Stands 180 & 181*

Theraflex Ltd, Whaplode House, Stockwell Gate, Whaplode, Spalding PE12 6UE. *Tel:* (0406) 24000. *Stand 133*

Theraposture Ltd, 4 The Downlands, Warminster, Wilts BA12 0BD.

Nesbit Evans Home Care Bed – see General

Tel: (0985) 213440. Theraposture beds allow you to select the best position for sleeping, reading, watching television, eating or relaxing – all at the touch of a button. *Stand 298*

BATHROOMS

Autumn Mobility, Uplands, 696 Ripponden Road, Moorside, Oldham OL4 2LP. *Tel:* 061-652 8966. On display will be the Medway Shower which has been designed with the smaller bathroom in mind. The company will also be exhibiting the improved non-slip Avon Shower Base as well as a large range of shower accessories. *Stand 2*

Cefyndy Enterprises, Cefyndy Road, Rhyl, Clwyd LL18 2HG. *Tel:* (0745) 31877. *Stand 130*

Chiltern Medical Devs Ltd, Chiltern House, Wedgewood Road, Bicester, Oxon OX6 7UL. *Tel:* (0869) 246470. *Stands 34, 35, 36 & 78*

Clos O Mat, 2 Brooklands, Sale, Cheshire M33 3SS. *Tel:* 061-973 6262. The company will exhibit their range of bathroom accessories as well as launching a gas detector. *Stands 107 & 108*

Glideshaw (International) Ltd, Unit 3, Station Industrial Estate, Burnham on Crouch, Essex CM0 8RW. *Tel:* 0621 742076. *Stand 261*

Gordon Ellis & Co Ltd, Trent Lane, Castle Donnington DE7 2PW. *Tel:* (0332) 810504. *Stand 96*

Hampshire Medical Developments Ltd, 42 Church Road, 34 Church Road, Romsey, Hants SO5 8EY. *Tel:* (0794) 523455. *Stand 42*

Health and Comfort, PO Box 15, Westbury, Wilts BA13 4LS. *Stand 222*

Heatons Bathrooms Ltd, c/o Paragon Plastics Ltd, Plant 10, Broomhouse Lane, Edlington, Doncaster DN12 1ES. *Tel:* (0709) 863901. On display will be the company's new dual-purpose Dignity bath. *Stand 72*

Hewi UK Ltd, Simitar Close, Gillingham Business Park, Gillingham, Kent ME8 0RN. *Tel:* (0634) 377688. *Stand 101*

Medic-Bath Ltd, Ashfield Works, Hulme Hall Lane, Manchester M10 8AZ. *Tel:* 061-205 7495. *Stands 178 & 179*

Mountway Ltd, (Total Promotions), 55 Bwlch Road, Fairwater, Cardiff. *Tel:* (0656) 56560. *Stand 250A*

Parker Bath Dev Ltd, Queensway, Stem Lane Industrial Estate, New

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Milton, Hants BH25 5NN. *Tel:* (0425) 611273. The company will be demonstrating the Movee, a new mobile care chair. Details will also be available of the Vestal range of bathtime and bodycare products. *Stands 45, 69 & 70*

Stanna Homecare's new Mini Bathroom. See Household.

Pressalit A/S, 11-15 Augustenborggade, DK-8000 Aarthus C, Denmark. *Tel:* 45-6-14 66 22. On display will be the Pressalit Toilet Support without leg and the Pressalit Freestanding Toilet Support. *Stand 269, 280*

Shavrin Levatap, 25 Hatton Garden, London. *Tel:* 01-952 2558. On display will be a full range of lever action taps and mixers for baths, showers, basins and sinks, in a choice of colours. *Stand 302*

Southern Sanitary Specialists, Cedric House, West Portway, Andover, Hants AP10 3LF. *Tel:* (0264) 241311. *Stands 37, 38, 76 & 77*

J W Swain Plastics Ltd, Byron Street, Buxton, Derby SK17 6LY. *Tel:* (0298) 2635. The company will be exhibiting the Invadex Squaredeck, a new showering unit designed for those with restricted mobility. *Stands 148 & 149*

Victor Hoists, The Willows, Wincham, Nr Northwich, Cheshire. *Tel:* (056589) 3860. *Stand 289*

HOLIDAYS

Lynhales Ltd, Lyonshall, Hereford HR5 3LN *Tel:* (05448) 238. Lynhales house, set in private parkland a few miles from the Welsh border, has been adapted for disabled guests but retains its period character. *Stand 253*

The Melbury Hotel, Cranborne Road, Swanage, Dorset. *Tel:* (0929) 422477. *Stand 5*

GENERAL

Aidserve Ltd, Bradley Hall Trading Estate, Standish, Wigan. *Tel:* (0257) 425538. *Stand 321*

Amilake Ltd, Haslemere Industrial Estate, Wandsworth, London SW18 4SB. *Tel:* 01-947 7191. *Stands 76 & 77*

Anatomia, 21 Hampstead Road, Euston Centre, London NW1 3JA. *Tel:* 01-387 5700. *Stand 294A*

Arjo Hospital Equipment Ltd, SPD Building, Acre Road, Reading RG2 0SU. *Tel:* (0734) 866789. The B8 Shower Trolley will be featured, designed to allow showering of disabled people in a horizontal position. *Stands 223 & 224*

ASM Medic Aids, Swinton Electro Plating, Royal Oak Works, Oak Street, Swinton, Manchester. *Tel:* 061-794 8426. On show, the new Lothian range of chairs and the new Atlanta Shower Stool with moulded seat and adjustable height. *Stands 98 99, 120 & 121*

Atlantic Medical Ltd, Atlantic House, Red Lion Court, London EC4A 3EB. *Tel:* 01-583 9481. *Stands 102 & 103*

Balsan – 3 (Southern), 11 Hazeldene Court, Valley Road, Kenley, Surrey CR2 5DJ *Tel:* 01-645 0759. *Stand 230*

Boots Co Ltd, Biss Lancaster, 180 Wardour Street, London W1V 3AA. On show in life-style room sets will be the Boots Personal Independence Range, and the Boots Personal Hygiene Range designed to help people with the day to day problems of incontinence. *Stand 62-66*

BR (UK) Ltd, Finchley Avenue, Mildenhall, Suffolk IP28 7BG. *Tel:* (0638) 718265. *Stand 277*

British Castors Ltd, Golds Green Works, Bagnall Street, Hill Top, West Bromwich, West Midlands B70 0UA. *Tel:* 021-556 7221. *Stand 86*

Camp Ltd, Northgate House, Staple Gardens, Winchester, Hants. *Tel:* (0962) 55248. *Stands 109-111*

Colson Castors Ltd, Credenda Road, West Bromwich, West Midlands B70 7LE. *Tel:* 021-544 4004. *Stand 16*

Combined Optical Industries Ltd, 200 Bath Road, Slough SL1 4DW. *Tel:* (0753) 75011. *Stand 147*

Community Design Projects, 18 Olaf Street, Bolton BLG 2EB. *Tel:* (0204) 395903. *Stand 270*

William Cox Ltd, London Road, Tring, Herts HP23 4RB. *Tel:* (044282) 4222 *Stand 251*

DMA Rehabilitation Ltd, Litchard Industrial Estate, Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan. *Tel:* (0656) 57495. *Stands 231 & 232*

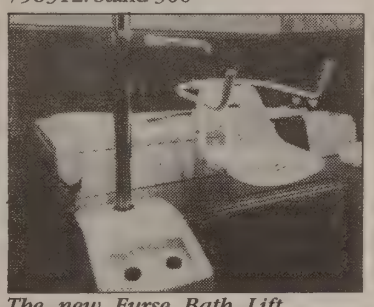
Downs Surgical Ltd, Church Path, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 3UE. *Tel:* 01-640 3422 ext 85. *Stand 159*

Ferris Appliances Ltd, 150c Shore Road, Greenisland, Co Antrim, Ireland. *Tel:* (0231) 60618. *Stands 262 & 263*

Focus Class Ltd, 126 Dickenson Road, Rusholme, Manchester. *Tel:* 061-224 5255. *Stands 309 & 328*

Fogarty plc, Care and Comfort Division, Havenside, Boston, Lincs PE21 0AH. *Tel:* (0205) 55968. *Stands 211, 212, 218 & 219*

Jenx Ltd, 72 Hoyland Road, Sheffield S3 8AB. *Tel:* (0742) 756312. Stand 300



The new Furse Bath Lift.

F Lewellyn & Co Ltd, Carlton Street, Liverpool L3 7ED. *Tel:* 051-236 5311. *Stands 198-200*

James Leckey Design, Design House, Kilwee Industrial Estate, Dunmurry, N. Ireland. *Tel:* (0232) 602277. *Stand 270B*

Albert Marston & Co Ltd, Wellington Works, Planetary Road, Willenhall, West Midlands WV13 3SJ. *Tel:* (0902) 736511. *Stand 12*

Mecanaids Ltd, St Catherine Street, Glos GL1 2BX. *Tel:* (0452) 500200. The new Helping Hand division is launching a new range of the popular reaching aid, with redeveloped jaw and claw. *Stands 150-152, 175-177*

Meyra-Rehab, Millshaw Park Avenue, Leeds LS11 0LR. *Tel:* (0532) 776060. *Stands 93, 94, 125 & 126*

Nesbit Evans & Co Ltd, Wednesbury, West Midlands WS10 7BL. *Tel:* 021-556 1511. The company is exhibiting its new electrically-operated home care bed with rising backrest, pads, walking aids and other equipment. *Stands 141*

Ortho-Med Ltd, 5 Loaning Road, Edinburgh EH7 6JE. *Tel:* 031-652 1603/4. *Stand 106*

F J Payne (Man) Co Ltd, Stanton Harcourt Rd, Eynsham, Oxford. *Tel:* (0865) 881881. On show, the Oxford and Isis Hoist Range, chairs, the Mermaid range of bath hoists and swimming pool hoists. *Stand 186*

Penton & Smart, 8 Spicer Street, St Albans, Herts AL2 4PQ. *Tel:* (0727) 40911. The only architects to have exhibited at Naidex will be showing examples of their work for disabled people – housing, residential units, nursing homes, schools, training centres, workshops and swimming pools. *Stand 12A*

Remploy, Russ Street, Broad Plain, Bristol BS2 0HJ. *Tel:* (0272) 277512. Remploy will be exhibiting their suspended arm sling for people recovering from a stroke. *Stand 89*

Renray Products UK Ltd, Road Five, Winsford Industrial Estate, Winsford, Cheshire CW7 3RV. *Tel:* (060659) 3456. New products include a hydraulic bath lifter, electric lifting chairs, a portable hard bed, aluminium perching and shower stools and a new stacking commode. *Stands 90, 91, 128 & 129*

Rifton Equipment, Darvell, Robertsbridge, East Sussex TN32 5DR, *Tel:* (0580) 880626. The Rifton Bath Chairs, which ensure a relaxed, secure position for all ages, will be on show plus other popular Rifton products. *Stand 112 & 113*

Rolac Ltd, Unit 16, Enterprise Centre Two, Brinksway, Chester Street, Stockport, Greater Manchester. *Tel:* 061-429 8477. *Stands 255 & 256*

Roma Medical Aids, Llandrow Industrial Estate, Cowbridge, South Glamorgan. *Tel:* (04463) 4519. *Stand 8*

SML Aids Ltd, Bath Place, High Street, Barnett, Herts EN5 5XE. *Tel:* 01-440 6522. *Stands 48-52*

Spencer (Banbury) Ltd, Medical Division, Spencer House, Britannia Road, Banbury, Oxford OX16 8DP. *Tel:* (0295) 57301. *Stand 236*

Tana Trust, 52 Warnford Court, Throgmorton Street, London EC2N 2AY. *Tel:* 01-737 0070. *Stand 161*

Tendercare Ltd, Binesway Ltd, London Road, Ashington, Pulborough, West Sussex RH20 3JP. *Tel:* (0903) 892825. *Stand 244A*

Transnet, 6 Avonmouth Street, London SE1. *Tel:* 01-407 1537. *Stand 294B*

Wessex Medical Equipment Co Ltd, Budds Lane, Romsey, Hants SO5 0AH. *Tel:* (0794) 522022. Wessex will be exhibiting the new Slimliner Stairseat and the Romsey Electra-Hoist. The company also produces lifts and door entry systems. *Stands 191-194*

SEATING

Alvema AB, Box 8344, S-16300, Spanga, Sweden. *Stand 169*

B-Line Industries for the Blind, Beech Holme, Beverley Road, Hull, North Humberside. *Tel:* (0482) 42296. *Stand 244*

J Cinnamon Ltd (Cintinque), Andrews Road, Cambridge Heath, London E8 4RN. *Tel:* 01-254 1262. The company has introduced 3 new designs to their wide range of reclining chairs. The new designs will be on display at the exhibition. *Stand 249*

Kirton Design, Bungay Road, Hempnall, Norwich NR15 2NG. *Tel:* (050842) 8145. An improved version of the Kirton Multi Variable Chair for children will be on view. The Kirton Breckland, an entirely new approach to seating for elderly people, is also being launched. *Stands 160 & 167*

Parker Care, PO Box 22, Frogmoor, High Wycombe, Bucks HP13 5DJ. *Tel:* (0494) 21144. The company will be promoting their Flemming Seat Lift Chair and Adjustable Back Rake Chair. Both chairs have been designed for general use in nursing homes, hospitals and other institutions. *Stands 213-215*

The Powel Seat Co Ltd, 70 Lodge Lane, Derby DE1 3HB. *Tel:* (0332) 47757. *Stands 203, 204 & 226*

A J Way & Co Ltd, Riverlock House, Spring Gardens Road, High Wycombe, Bucks HP13 7AG. *Tel:* (0494) 27507. *Stands 201 & 202*

PERSONAL CARE

ACS Medical Ltd, Kestrel House, Garth Road, Morden, Surrey SM4 4LP. *Tel:* 01-330 4333. Featuring an extended range of Absorb-Plus washable underpads for beds and chairs, the Medifleece wheelchair seat cover and Epicare skin cream for pressure sores. *Stand 20*

Coloplast Ltd, Bridge House, Orchard Lane, Huntingdon, Cambs PE17 4LN. *Tel:* (0480) 55451. On display will be the Conveen range for incontinent people, including the contoured leg bag which was developed with disabled users in mind. *Stand 43*

Feeder Products Ltd, PO Box 481, Blackmore, Ingatestone, Essex CM4 0NA. *Tel:* (0277) 821224. *Stand 252.*

Peaudouce UK Ltd, Happy Atom Marketing & Promotional Services, Old College Court, Priory Street, Ware, Herts SG12 0DE. The company's new healthcare division, Caducee, will be exhibiting their 2 incontinence products, Slipad and Slipad Super. *Stand 95*

Seton Products, Tubiton House, Medlock Street, Oldham OL1 3HS. *Tel:* 061-652 2222. *Stand 33*

Spenco Medical Ltd, Tanyard Lane, Stenying, West Sussex BN4 8DP. *Tel:* (0903) 815123. The company will be promoting its range of Silicore padding for reducing pressure on the skin, Omega 5000 cushions and Spenco 2nd Skin dressing. *Stands 116 & 117*

Chas F Thackray Ltd, PO Box HP171, 1 Shire Oak Street, Leeds LS6 2DP. *Tel:* (0532) 744711. *Stand 322*

MOTORING

Brotherwood Conversion's Nissan Prairie. See also p15.

AID Centre, 182 Brighton Road, Coulsdon, Surrey CR3 2NF. *Tel:* 01-645 9014. *Stand 14*

Atlas Conversions, 75 Alverstone Road, Milton, Portsmouth PO4 8TG. *Tel:* (0705) 756265. Atlas will be exhibiting their Renault welfare transport, including the Trafic and Master conversions approved by Renault UK. *Stand Hall B*

Austin Rover Group Ltd, Sales Marketing Division, Canley Road, Coventry CV5 6UX. *Tel:* (0203) 70111. *Stands 83-85, 135-136*

Brotherwood Conversions, Auto Body Repairs, Station Garage, Yetminster, Sherborne, Dorset. *Tel:* (0935) 872603. On display, the converted Nissan Prairie, for the wheelchair-bound passenger and family. *Stands 248 & 249*

Gowring Mobility International, The Grange, Lower Way, Thatcham, Newbury, Berks. *Tel:* (0635) 64464. *Stands 144, 145, 182 & 183*

V B Hughes & Son Ltd, 44 Littleton Road, Ashford, Middx. *Tel:* (07842) 43370. *Stand 17*

Interbility, 5 Badminton Close, Bragbury End, Stevenage, Herts. *Tel:* (0438) 813365. Featuring the Slide-Away Ramp for VW Transporter and Renault Trafic and the HBC 200 Automatic Wheelchair Lift. *Stand Hall B*

Marketability, Glencoe House, Seafield Road, Sidmouth, Devon EX10 8HF. *Tel:* (03955) 2949. The Travel Seat, which transfers disabled people in and out of cars, will be on show. Also a wheelchair which can be mounted on the passenger side of a car. *Stands 299 & 300*

Motability, Boundary House, 91-93 Charterhouse Street, London EC1M 6BT. *Tel:* 01-253 1211. *Stand 315*

Renault (UK) Ltd, Western Avenue, Acton, London W3 0RZ. *Tel:* 01-992 3481. *Stand Hall B*

Vauxhall-Opel, PO Box 3, Luton LU2 0SY. Featuring the Vauxhall Astra hatchback with recently perfected remote control steering, and the Vauxhall Belmont. *Stands 162-165*

PUBLICATIONS

Bailliere Tindall, Vincent Square, London SW1 2PN. *Tel:* 01-630 7881 ext 216. *Stand 271A*

Caring Today, Rest Care House, Watson Mill Lane, Sowerby Bridge, West Yorks HX6 3BW. *Tel:* (0422) 835057. *Stand 327A*

Community Care, Surrey House, 1 Throwley Way, Sutton, Surrey SM1 4QQ. *Tel:* 01-643 8040. *Stand 301*

Come and see us!

Disability Now is having a stand at Naidex for the first time this year. Why not come along to stand 127 and find out more about Britain's best disability newspaper?

Disability Now, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ. *Tel:* 01-636 5020. *The* monthly newspaper for people with disabilities and relevant professionals, will have a stand at Naidex for the first time. *Stand 127*

Philip & Tacey Ltd, North Way, Walworth Industrial Estate, Andover, Hants SP10 5BA. *Tel:* (0264) 61171. *Stand 327*

Sell's Publications Ltd, 55 High Street, Epsom, Surrey KT19 8DN. *Tel:* (03727) 26376. Sell's produce the *Health Service Buyers' Guide* which lists over 3,500 companies and is distributed to those in health care activities. *Stand 304*

Souvenir Press Ltd, 43 Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3PA. *Tel:* 01-580 9307. In this the tenth anniversary of the Human Horizons Series, there are now nearly 60 titles available, including *Multiple Sclerosis: A Personal Exploration, Let's Talk, Cookery for Handicapped People* and new this autumn, *Multi-*

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ply Handicapped Children. Stand 237
Therapy Weekly, 4 Little Essex Street, London WC2R 3LF. *Tel:* 01-836 663. *Stand*
This Caring Business, 22 Lion Chambers, John Williams Street, Huddersfield HD1 1ES. *Tel:* (0484) 512174. *Stand 92*

WALKING AIDS

Ellis Son & Paramore Ltd, Spring Street Works, Sheffield S3. *Tel:* (0742) 738921. *Stand 37*
Humanitech Ltd, PO Box 3, Zephon Common, Crookham Village, Aldershot, Hants. *Tel:* (0252) 850935. *Stand 230*
Joncare (Meadjess Ltd), Radley Road Industrial Estate, Abingdon, Oxon. *Tel:* (0235) 28120. Getting its first showing, a new mobile base and adjustable tray to go with the popular Flexistand standing frame for children. *Stand 198*
Uniscan Ltd, 12 Samson House. Arterial Road, Laindon, Basildon, Essex SS15 6DR. *Tel:* (0268) 419288. *Stand 260A*

COMMUNICATION/ COMPUTERS

Alphavision, 61, Beechtree Avenue, Marlow Bottom, Bucks SL7 3NH. *Tel:* (06284) 71370. Exhibiting their range of closed circuit television reading aids for partially sighted people, including the new Traveller mark 2. *Stand 19*
British Telecom, British Telecom Centre, 81 Newgate Street, London EC1A 7AJ. *Tel:* 01-356 5275. Displaying new phones with large, well-spaced buttons (Tremolo, Tribune), the new Venue 24 which has a 24 number memory and the new cordless Freeway with controllable volume. *Stands 209-213*
Canon UK Ltd, Canon House, Manor Road, Wallington, Surrey SM6 0BW. *Tel:* 01-773 3173. *Stand 215*

British Telecom's new Freeway telephone is cordless and has an easy-to-use keypad.

College of Speech Therapy, 6 Lechmere Road, London NW2 5BU. *Tel:* 01-459 8521/3. *Stand 292*
Complete Computer Systems, Institute for Bioengineering, Brunel University, Uxbridge, Middlesex. *Tel:* (0895) 71490/71318. *Stand 247*
Easiaids Ltd, 48 Mill Green Road, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 4HY. *Tel:* 01-648 4186. Amongst the company's products are the Vocaid and Chatterbox voice synthesisers, the new Memowriter and the latest Lightwriter with illuminated displays, printer, keyboard and voice synthesiser. *Stand 18*
Possum Controls Ltd, Middlegreen Trading Estate, Middlegreen Road, Slough, Berks SL3 6DF. *Tel:* (0753) 79234. *Stands 87 & 88*
Speech Systems Ltd, Unit 8, Enterprise Row, Rangemoor Road, London N15. *Tel:* 01-885 3731. *Stand 271*

COMFORT

Bio-Comfort Ltd, Harlequin House, 7 High Street, Teddington, Middlesex TW11 8EH. *Tel:* 01-943 3378. *Stands 287 & 295*

naidex'86

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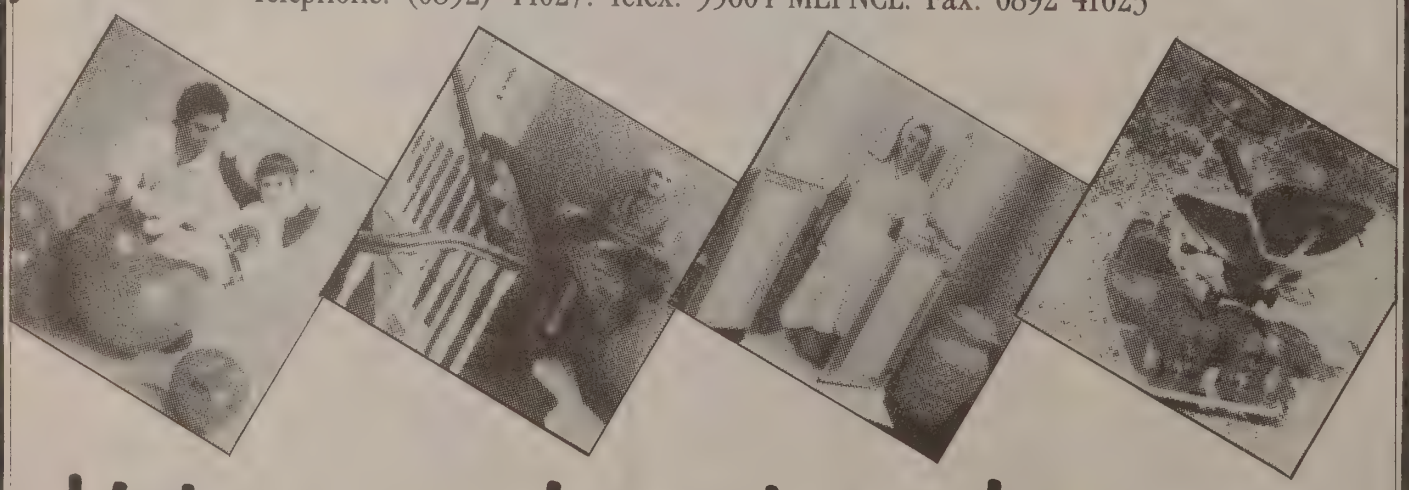
Convex House, 43 Dudley Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 1LE
Telephone: (0892) 44027. Telex: 95604 MEPNCL. Fax: 0892 41023



Helping people to help themselves.

Free admission

John Drew (London) Ltd, Unit A5, Holmdale, Fontwell Avenue, Eastergate, West Sussex PO20 6RY. *Tel:* (0243) 682050. The Easyform selection, made to order in 4 different styles, will be on show. They are lightweight and can be adapted to allow for bunions, curly toes etc. *Stand 260*
Simplantex Eastbourne Ltd, Willowfield Road, Eastbourne, E Sussex BN22 8AR. *Tel:* (0323) 27896. *Stand 279A*

TOYS/EDUCATION

Inflatable Play Equipment Co Ltd, Unit 6, Rassau Industrial Estate, Ebbw Vale, Gwent NP3 5SD. *Tel:* (0495) 307677. *Stand 288*
Magiboards Ltd, Stafford Park 12, Telford, Shropshire TF3 3BI. *Stand 44*
Medipost, Tubiton House, Medlock Street, Oldham OL1 3HS. On show will be Patience Play, a plastic gameboard which allows people with hand-control difficulties to play cards. *Stand 33*
Rompa, PO Box 5, Wheatbridge Road, Chesterfield, Derbyshire S40 2AE. *Tel:* (0246) 70121. Rompa will be exhibiting a range of play and therapy equipment, including a special frame with table and activity centre to fit over wheelchair or bed. *Stand 229*
Scandinavian Selection, 14 Myrtle Gardens, London W7 3JQ. *Tel:* 01-579 5612. A large selection of handicraft items for use in occupational therapy and as hobbies in the home will be displayed. *Stand 242*
Talking Books for the Handicapped, 12 Lamp Street, London SE1 1QH. *Tel:* 01-407 9417. *Stand 7*
Toys for the Handicapped, 76 Barrack Road, Sandy Lane Industrial Estate, Stourport on Severn, Worcs DY13 9QB. *Tel:* (02993) 78820. *Stand 274*

LIFTS

AMP Engineers Ltd, Unit 2B, Portland Industrial Estate, Hitchin Road, Arlesey, Beds SG15 6SG. *Tel:* (0462) 730443. *Stand 240*
Asgo Ltd, Unit 17, Llandow Industrial Estate, Cowbridge, South Glamorgan CF7 7PB. *Tel:* (04463) 3030. *Stands 306-308*
Bison-Bede Ltd, Units 11A & B, Leadgate Industrial Estate, Consett, Co Durham DH8 7RN. *Tel:* (0207) 590149. The company will be introducing their new Chester Stairlift system. The system offers a range of facilities to overcome space limitations at the bottom and top of the stairs. *Stand 71*
Brooks Stairlifts Ltd, Westminster Industrial Estate, Station Road, North Hykeham, Lincoln LN6 3QY. *Tel:* (0522) 688874. The company will be exhibiting the most popular stairlifts from their range. *Stands 131 & 132*
Gimson & Co (Leicester) Ltd, Vulcan Road, Leicester LE5 3EA. *Tel:* (0533) 27272. *Stands 46, 47, 67 & 68*
Mangar Aids Ltd, Presteigne Industrial Estate, Presteigne, Powys. *Tel:* (0544) 267674. The company will be promoting their newest product, the Mangar Booster, a multipurpose lifter designed to help with the lifting problems that are involved in the daily routine of the carer and disabed person. *Stands 21 & 26*
Manor Lifts Ltd, 22a Sefton Street, Litherland, Liverpool. *Stand 166*
Minavator Sales Ltd, Townsend Industrial Estate, Houghton Regis, Dunstable, Beds LU5 5BA. *Tel:* (0582) 65961. *Stands 87 & 88*
Project & Design Co (Redcar) Ltd, Longbeck Trading Estate, Marske by the Sea, Cleveland TS11 6HR. *Tel:* (0642) 484802. *Stand 146*
Stairlifts Engineering, Sheepbridge, Swallow Field, Reading RG7 1PY. *Tel:* (0264) 643111. *Stand 278*
Stannah Lifts Ltd, Watt Close, East Portway, Andover, Hants. *Tel:* (0264) 64311. The company will be exhibiting various models from their range of Stairlifts and Homelifts. *Stands 153-155, 172-174*
WJ Furse & Co Ltd (Lift Division), Traffic Street, Nottingham NG2 1NF. *Tel:* (0602) 868213. the new Furse Bath Lift, controlled by air pressure, once again makes assisted or private bathing a simple operation for elderly or disabled people. *Stand 32*

OUTLOOK

Television

Some unsubtle propaganda

I was beginning to think American TV always treated disability properly. Then I watched **Alice** (C4, 21 July).

This is a routine situation comedy with stock characters and a rigid formula, with only minimum room for variations between one episode and another. In this episode the variation was disability, which fitted so badly it was painful to watch. The storyline was conveying a message – in other words, propaganda.

Maybe the producers should be praised for even attempting to preach about disabled people's rights to accessible places in a sitcom. But the BBC's *In Sickness And In Health* did a similar job more effectively. Propaganda can be subtle. *Alice* wasn't.

Dallas, **Dynasty** and **The Colbys** (BBC1) are not noted for subtlety either. Neither are they particularly good at portraying disability.

In these soapy worlds, disability is strictly a temporary condition ending in either complete cure or death. While it lasts, it is a dire tragedy which reduces everyone to tears.

Things are changing though. Donna Krebbs in **Dallas** is involved with a group of disabled children, particularly those with loss of hearing. She has even learned sign language.

The children featured in this storyline, which is longer than the usual 4 episodes, really have disabilities.

Hopefully, it will continue. Beter late than never, I suppose.

The only non-fictional look at disability this month came from Yorkshire TV's **First Tuesday** (5 August)

There is a poignancy intrinsic to the association of deafness with music. The assumption is that music has to be heard to be fully appreciated and that anyone who could still be musical despite an inability to hear must be at considerable disadvantage.

Yet on two occasions I have encountered people who disprove the theory. A few years ago I met Nina Falaise, a deaf choreographer and dancer, who feels the music. So does Evelyn Glennie, the subject of *First Tuesday*. She is a percussionist who graduated from the Royal College of Music with the highest honours.

Like Nina, Evelyn is profoundly deaf. She started studying with twin hearing aids but rejected them because external sounds distracted her from inwardly hearing and feeling the music. To retrieve her hearing now, she thinks, might be a disadvantage; her musicality, like Nina's, is best served by deafness. Perhaps in this way they have an advantage over everyone else.

Evelyn is an extremely pleasant, attractive person and, thankfully, the producers chose not to be over-emotive or melodramatic. I just wish more music had been included.

If only some enterprising TV producer could bring Evelyn and Nina together for a shared musical experience . . .

As I write, it's early August – holiday time. I shall be back to review September's new Autumn schedules, including Daytime TV.

Chris Davies

Theatre

Working Hearts

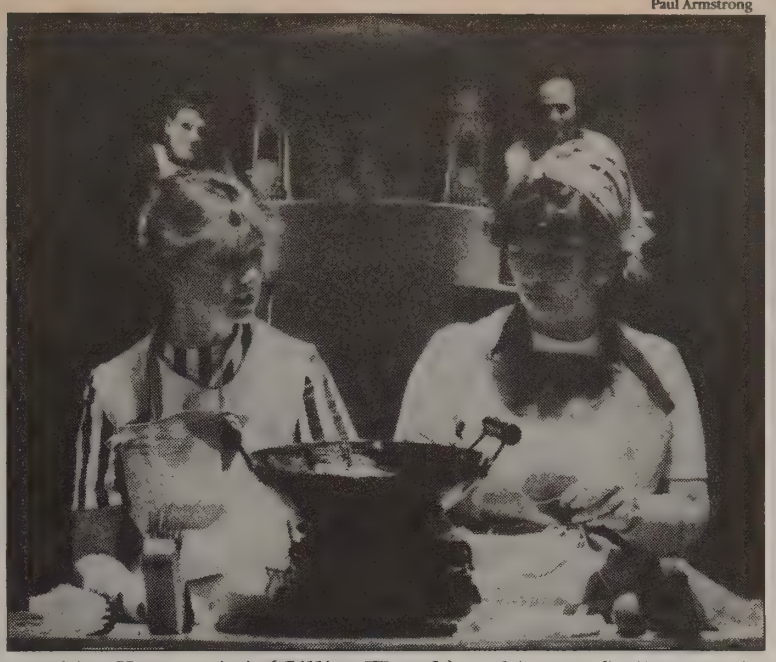
In a workshop where bristles are put into brushes and bottles are filled with brake fluid, four people tell their stories revealing "working hearts, full of imaginings".

A young man relives the experience of the womb; another, a blind poet, reflects upon the patronising attitude of society towards his art; a woman considers her pregnancy and her fears of giving birth to a disabled child; another talks of her lesbianism and society's hypocrisy.

All four are disabled, but the issues they discuss – love, sexuality, art, work, aspirations – are of general relevance.

Working Hearts is Graeae Theatre's most accomplished work so far. Noel Greig's script, coupled with Maggie Ford's direction and Sarah Jane Ash's superbly designed set, gives the production a strong spine. This renders less important some of the weaknesses in acting, which although generally competent does at times lack range.

Paul Armstrong



Working Hearts – Azis (Gillian Waugh) and Aznow (Julia Finlay).

Cleverly interwoven amongst the stories is a consideration of the nature of the theatre itself, deliberately flouting theatrical conventions. Thus scenes in the play are mimicked on a small puppet theatre; a frequently quirky commentary on the action is offered; and at one moment of brilliantly realised commedy the cast simply stop acting altogether and chat amongst themselves, as though quite oblivious to the presence of an audience.

If the play ultimately stops short of a revelatory explanation of the many issues it uncovers, it does nonetheless contain several moments of wit and insight. It is certainly worth seeing.

Alan Durant

Graeae's Working Hearts Tour

9 Sept Bingley Arts Centre
11/12 Sept Leeds
13 Sept Bradford
17 Sept Chesterfield Arts Centre
18 Sept Mansfield Arts Centre
19 Sept Northampton Arts Centre
23/24 Sept Crewe
25 Sept Abraham Moss Theatre, Manchester
1 Oct Bognor Regis
2 Oct Fareham and Gosport Arts Centre
3 Oct Malthouse Theatre, Hassock
4 Oct Portsmouth Drama Centre
7 Oct Link Arts Centre, Swindon
13 Oct Leadmill, Sheffield
14-17 Oct Northern tour
20/21 Oct Carlisle
23 Oct Solihull
24/25 Oct Midlands Arts Centre
29/30 Oct Exeter
31 Oct/1 Nov Albany, Bristol

For more information, contact Graeae Theatre Company, The Diorama, 14 Peto Place, London NW1. Tel: *01-935 5588*

Books

Kitchen Sense for Disabled People

Edited by Gwen Conacher
(Croom Helm on behalf of the Disabled Living Foundation, £8.95 plus 50p P&P from DLF (Sales) Ltd, Book House, 45 East Hill, London SW18 2QZ)

The revised edition of *Kitchen Sense* serves a useful purpose by trying to answer all the major problems of preparing and cooking food within one volume.

Gwen Conacher has tackled equipment, eating in company, shopping and short cuts in cooking, while other contributors have dealt with kitchen design, coping with problems and healthy eating. Further reading is suggested as well as organisations who can offer help and the names and addresses of suppliers of equipment.

I realise that it is difficult to pitch the level of this book to suit everyone – disabled people, carers and professionals – but I found the tone extremely patronising. Mostly the writers used a lot of words to state the obvious.

The book also tries to cover too much too superficially.

But at least it will make disabled people realise that with a little thought and patience they can and will manage.

● Kitchen design is obviously important for disabled people and as I am getting married next year I took the opportunity of seeing the DLF "disability" and "in touch" kitchens.

I thought they were disgraceful. The "in touch" kitchen was just an ordinary kitchen with colour contrast for partially sighted people and one or two aids from the RNIB plus a brailled microwave oven. The "disability" kitchen was a hob at wheelchair level and one or two low level cupboards and a few disability aids.

I had expected to see a display from a company who supplies a disability kitchen.

Why can't the DLF have a display area with different companies displaying their wares? Most of us cannot get to big stores or manufacturers.

Lin Berwick

Staying Off The Beaten Track

by Elizabeth Gundrey
(Arrow Books £3.95)

This is a well-presented and absorbing guide (now in its fifth edition) to 250 reasonably priced inns, small hotels, farms and country houses across England. They are the personal favourites of established travel writer, Elizabeth Gundrey.

Some 40 of the entries, coded "H", are suitable for people with a disability: there is at least one ground floor bedroom and bathroom, few steps, and the doorways are wide enough for wheelchairs. If you are unsure whether a hotel would meet your needs, telephone them.

The guide lists the entries alphabetically by name. There is also a geographical index at the front of the book.

The descriptions are evocative, giving a vivid picture of each hotel and the people who run them, the history of the house and surrounding area, and what there is to see and do nearby. Each entry is accompanied by an attractive pen and ink drawing of the building and ends with details of the bedrooms, meals, charges etc.

The guide is both thorough and a pleasure to read. It captures the attraction of the good small hotel: their individuality and warm and friendly atmosphere.

Kathy Johnson

Contined on page 14

MOBILITY FOR THE PARALYSED.

The Parawalker (Hip Guidance Orthosis) was developed by the Orthotic Research & Locomotor Assessment Unit, The Robert Jones & Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, Oswestry, Shropshire.

The splint is a scientifically designed device which enables paralysed persons to walk over a variety of uneven surfaces without becoming exhausted. Many can leave their wheelchairs at home and contemplate a more normal life in schools or in the community.

Originally developed for use by congenital spina bifida paraplegics, the successful application of the device to other young people with paralysis (of any cause) has brought enthusiastic support from patients, parents, teachers, physiotherapists and friends.

PARAID

For further details contact Paraid, Weston Lane, Greet, Birmingham B11 3RS Tel: 021 706 3936 Telex: 336625

Fire? Here's a unique chair for the quick get away

Chris Davies tries out the EVAC + CHAIR "300"

Simon Crompton

Eddie Telford (left) wheels Chris from his office to the top of the stairs . . . then Phil Harris has a go, finding he can control the chair with ease.

I work in a second floor office. From past experience I know how complicated fire drills can be when you are in a wheelchair: it takes a minimum of 4 people to lift me and my chair down 32 steps. With so many involved, we have to wait until everyone else has left the building rather than block the passageway.

All this will change now that we have an EVAC+CHAIR "300".

Invented in America, it looked at first sight to be totally unsuitable for people who may not have any balance or control over their physical movements. The chair is very light, foldable, runs on 2 wheels on a flat surface and on rubber belts down the stairs.

But first impressions were wrong. I sat in the chair very easily and didn't have the slightest feeling of insecurity. Travelling down stairs was easy and smooth.

The chair is not particularly comfortable, but then it is saving lives that counts, not comfort.

It is a simple idea that can make fire hazard buildings accessible.

Phil Harris, one of Chris Davies' helpers, adds, "The chair is light, sturdy, easy to unfold, and allows a disabled person (up to 300 lbs) to effect a much quicker escape. There's no need to rely on the inexperience of other people any more.

"Safety belts and a slung plastic seat make it virtually impossible to tip the evacuee out.

"Having pushed and been pushed, I have absolute confidence in the chair's two rubber friction tracks, which allow total control of descent regardless of slope."

The EVAC+CHAIR "300" costs £330 (less if you order more than one) from Paraid, Weston Lane, Birmingham B11 3RS, tel: *021-706 3936.*

OUTLOOK

Motoring

The Renault 5 Automatic – a good deal

My appeal for people to send in details of their new car purchases has borne fruit. On a visit to Birmingham recently I met Mrs Jean Martin, who has bought a brand new Renault 5 under Renault's Disabled Motorist Programme, saving herself over £1,100.

Her reasons for buying the Renault were

1 She already owned a Renault 5 auto (3-door, T Reg) and liked it.
2 The short delivery time: only 16 days from order to supply (including Easter)
3 The automatic gearbox option without top-of-the-range frills as in other ranges
4 The design of the car suited the family's needs.

So what did she actually get for her money?

The all new Renault 5 was introduced into the UK in February 1985, with the automatic version coming later. It is one of the leaders in the small car class and has almost a cult following.

Mrs Martin purchased the 5-door version. But the more popular model among disabled drivers is the 3-door because its exceptionally large doors allow you to get in and out more easily than you can with other small cars on the market.

The new exterior style makes the car quite distinctive and, unlike some of the cheaper econobox cars, the paint finish and corrosion protection are exceptionally good.

Unfortunately the extremely comfortable seats are deep-moulded to hold the body – ideal when you are in place but difficult to get past when sliding in and out. This car could well use a swivel seat.

The interior is light and airy with, again, a very high standard of finish. Unlike the older Renault 5, the re-designed wiper switch mounted on the dashboard is easy to use without removing your hands from the steering wheel.

The Renault 5 is particularly light to drive and extremely stable. It is not by any stretch of the imagination a fast car, but in traffic it is very nimble and parking is almost a pleasure!

The rear hatch opens to a very small storage area but because of its height you can store a folded, manual wheelchair.

Under the bonnet you are faced with a simple engine compartment, the different items easy to locate – except the bonnet catch, which is almost impossible to find. The bonnet opens outwards, making life impossible from the wheelchair user's point of view.

One of the real beauties of this car, however, is that its very simplicity lends itself to adaptation. Hand controls can be fitted without obstruction or unsightly levers and the model tested had power-assisted steering developed by Steering Developments Ltd which gives 30 per cent assistance and makes manoeuvring with one hand easy.

As the Renault 5 in its various forms has been available for many years, there are several adaptations to choose from and all the major manufacturers offer Renault conversions as standard.

The Renault Disabled Motorist Programme takes the worry out of purchasing a new car. The prices quoted are always "on the road" prices, and the headquarters staff will give advice on adaptation or the best dealers to approach in a particular area. As Mrs Martin found, her local garage – G.T. Cars of Derby – was happy to answer all her questions and gave her the best possible start with her new car.

Technical Information

The Renault 5 Automatic is powered by a 1397cc 4-cylinder transverse engine with a three-speed electronic automatic gearbox.
Maximum speed 96 mph, with 0-62 mph acceleration in 16.5 secs.

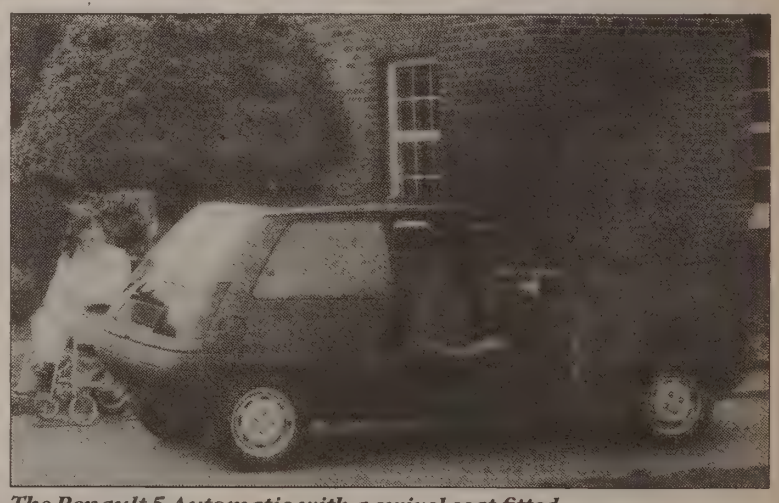
Fuel Consumption

56 mph, 52.3 mpg
41.5 mpg average fuel consumption

Price

The Disabled Motorist Programme is available to all disabled people who receive a Mobility Allowance or Motability Supplement or who are registered with a local authority. It offers a full 16 per cent discount on the basic price, plus reduced charges for delivery and number plates.

The Renault 5 Automatic we tested costs £5,432.93 under the Programme with power-assisted steering £975 extra.



The Renault 5 Automatic with a swivel seat fitted.

The car can be financed either through Motability (Renault is now an approved dealer), or through the Renault Finance Scheme for which a 10 per cent deposit is required with up to 5 years to pay. Adaptations, power-steering and hand controls may also be financed in this way.

John Byworth

For further information contact the Renault Disabled Motorist Programme, Renault UK Ltd, Western Avenue, London W3 0RZ, tel: *01-992 3481, or any Renault main dealer.*

PS John Irving, formerly of Galway Smith, Huddersfield, is now head of design and marketing for the Sandmoor Motors Group. In conjunction with SWS Motor Bodies of Bolton, he is marketing the Fiat Fiorino Hi-Line conversion and planning other low-cost conversions. With franchises for Fiat, Renault, Austin Rover, Audi VW and Hyundai, he'll have plenty of scope! A full range of hand controls and electric clutches will be available through Autobility Sales UK. "It is our mutual aim to be the North's number 1 Motability centre providing a complete service including a whole range of funding options", says John Irving. Contact him at Thornton Motors, Mirfield, tel: (0924) 498316/7.

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Tel: John Irving (0924) 498316/7

Cornish Guardian

Achiever of the year!

21-year-old Kevin Church's determination to overcome his disability has led to a series of awards, including the BBC Radio Young Achiever of the Year Award, announced last month.

Kevin, from the Saint Austell branch of the Cornish Spastics Society, has just completed 4 years of hard work to gain his Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award. He received his certificate from the Duke, who talked to him about what he had done to gain it.

His tasks included collecting magazines to take to hospitals and old people, learning archery, sea and river fishing, writing projects and competing in the demanding Ten Tors race across Dartmoor.

Which is all the more impressive when you know that before 1981 Kevin could only walk with 2 elbow crutches. Then, whilst studying at Beaumont College, Lancaster, he took up weight training and within 2 years he had thrown away his crutches and was walking with a stick.

On 6 September Kevin receives the Pascoe Cup, an achievement award for Cornwall.

"The thing I'm hoping to achieve next is to write a book about my life," says Kevin.

Prairie answers a prayer

A single mum's life has been transformed after a donation from the Basingstoke and District Spastics Society allowed her to buy a car conversion for disabled people.

Christine O'Connell from Reading says her Nissan Prairie with Brotherwood conversion is "a dream". For the first time it allows her 12-year-old daughter Stephanie, who has cerebral palsy and uses a wheelchair, to sit in the back of the car with her sisters – 7-year-old twins.

"It has changed our lives completely," says Chris O'Connell. "We go shopping together, we go visiting friends, the twins go to play scheme and Stephanie and I do something different. There is no hassle and no lifting."

The wheelchair is wheeled in from the back of the car, where the underside of the car drops down to form a ramp. The wheelchair then sits in a recess between 2 other passenger seats, which are accessible from the side of the car. The roof is slightly raised at the back.

"I've tried no end of conversions, but I've found none which allowed 3 children to sit in line, or in such comfort. Now Stephanie can keep the twins in order!"

All in all, the car cost £9,800. Basingstoke and District Spastics Society donated £1,500.

For picture and address of Rod Brotherwood see Naidex p.11.

Sheffield group will promote Asian welfare

Sheffield Spastics Society is responding to the unmet needs of some of the 350 people on its books by appointing 3 paid specialist workers.

By the end of the year it will have a recreation officer and an Asian home visitor, and later a disability awareness liaison officer for schools.

If all goes well, they will be employed under the Manpower Services Commission's Community Programme – like the society's project co-ordinator Marlene Seedhouse, 2 home visitors and an office secretary.

The Asian home visitor will serve immigrant families with disabled children. Marlene Seedhouse says she knows of at least 15 such families, but part of the problem is identifying them.

"Asian people often seem to be ashamed of having a disabled child," she says. "They don't realise that help is available. The only way we can identify them and their needs is to appoint someone specifically responsible for their welfare."

If demands from other ethnic minorities such as Caribbeans become obvious, she says, then the group might consider taking on another ethnic minority worker.

The new recreation officer, who is already installed, will be organising outings and also daytime activities in Sheffield.

"Although there are PHAB youth clubs in Sheffield, there aren't many activities for older disabled people," says Marlene Seedhouse.

"There are local authority day centres, but they can be stilted and boring."

The group's plan is to have a twice weekly session at Sheffield YMCA, where people can join discussion groups, watch videos, play sport, games and keep fit. A "pilot" open day attracted 60 people. "Everyone wants it," says Marlene Seedhouse.

Access is the only problem – and disabled people will have to wait while ramps are fitted at the entrance of the otherwise perfectly accessible building.

The schools liaison officer, who will not be in post until next year, will go into schools to try and increase awareness of disability and its associated problems. He or she will devise special project packs which teachers can work through with schoolchildren.

But Sheffield Spastics Society is going to have to find extra funding from the education authority if it wants a trained teacher for the post – MSC Community Programme pay is less than the lowest wage on the teachers' pay scale.

LOCAL GROUP NEWS

Edited by Simon Crompton

How much could you save by turning your thermostat down 1°C?

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Using Energy Wisely. That's the title of a leaflet in our "Electricity and You" series.

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ELECTRICITY COUNCIL, ENGLAND AND WALES.

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Please send me ____ copies of Using Energy Wisely. To: Electricity Publications, PO Box 2, Feltham, Middlesex TW14 0TG. Tel: 01-200 0 200.

ELECTRICITY
Energy for Life

Share Your Problems

With Margaret Morgan

"I've been advised to lose weight . . . but I do enjoy food"

Keeping one's weight within reasonable limits is difficult for many of us. Yet this control is very important for all sorts of reasons, not least because getting around and climbing stairs are much more tiring when you are carrying extra weight.

If you have limited mobility or use a wheelchair and are not able to exercise much, it can be even more of a problem. Transferring from wheelchair to bed, toilet or car, whether you manage on your own or with the help of someone else, becomes increasingly awkward.

These two extracts from letters underline some of the difficulties.

"I have been advised to lose weight for medical reasons, but in order to do so I have to be on a very low calorie diet. I am rather immobile and so cannot exercise much. But I do enjoy food and I like planning my meals and doing the shopping. What do you suggest?"

"We are worried about a disabled man who lives in our hostel. He seems to need to buy snacks all the time and he likes his pint of beer – or maybe more – in the pub each evening. We have been trying to offer him a more appropriate diet at mealtimes, but he undoes all the good by eating and drinking between meals. He doesn't seem to mind being so overweight, but surely this can't be good for him?"

Sylvia Davis was seriously injured in a road accident in 1977. Her poem to Mr Crockard, her surgeon, is reprinted from *HEADWAY News* (Summer 1986).

Dear Mr Crockard,
I have tried hard:
You impressed the need,
But I did not succeed
To be slim
And trim.
At least I have not gained . . .
That would have pained!

I shall try to reduce
With more salad and fruit juice.
After-effects of head injury are hell,
Confusion, weakness and pain –
The sad realisation that I'll never be the same.
Yours sincerely, and with regrets,
Sylvia Davis

There are many organisations, groups and publications which claim to help people to slim. They can certainly inspire and support those who are overweight, *but no-one can lose weight for you* and until you have made up your mind to tackle this yourself none of the magazines, recipe books or groups will have lasting effects.

Professor Arnold Bender, who is well-known in this field, says: "Losing weight is the second most difficult thing to do; the *most difficult* thing is keeping it off."

The first problem for the overweight person is to recognise that he or she *has* a problem. This is not easy, as fat people seem to have a fund of excuses and explanations.

Weight gain is, however, always caused by taking in more energy through the food we eat than is being used in our ordinary daily living. So we have to reduce – or change – our food, to ensure that the energy used by our bodies is greater than that created by the food we eat.

Simon Crompton

For those of us who do not use up much energy during the day, getting this balance right can be frustrating and disheartening. There are, however, many ways of reducing the calories while still enjoying interesting and satisfying meals.

Here are a few tips for my corresponents and any other readers who really want to lose weight.

Tips for slimmers

- Eating snacks between meals is especially damaging and if you really need to assuage the pangs of hunger or just have something to chew, raw sliced carrots, celery, grated hard cabbage, apples and oranges are much better than crisps, peanuts, biscuits or cakes.
- Reducing the amounts of fat and sugar are not only important for slimming but lead to much healthier living, too.
- Use skimmed milk instead of full cream milk and low fat plain yogurt instead of cream.
- All fats are high in calories. Low fat spreads contain half the calories of margarine.
- Use sweeteners instead of sugar and low calorie fruit squashes, diet colas and mineral waters. Alcoholic drinks are best left out when slimming, though small amounts can be taken once you have reached your goal weight.
- Moderation in all things is probably as good a motto as any, though different people have very different views of what being moderate means. This is why help from groups, counsellors, magazines, menu plans and recipes can be so valuable.

It is not easy to tackle slimming on one's own and a good friend of mine has recently asked if she can come and stay with me for a few days so that I can prepare some suitable meals for her and encourage her to start losing the 2 stone that she needs to shed.

I shall be getting out my recipe books, so that I can persuade her that there are simple, interesting meals which will enable her to learn new eating habits and then *stay with them for life*. This doesn't mean giving up all her favourite food and drink, but it may well mean reducing the amounts and cutting some out altogether until her goal weight is reached.

- The encouragement of those who have lost weight and kept it off can be helpful, though some find it depressing because they feel they can never match these achievements.

Sharing successes and failures is important and if you can't get to a class or group, why not find a friend whom you can 'phone regularly to report progress? The important thing is *to go on trying*.

I have drawn up a Slimming Information Sheet, with useful organisations and publications. If you would like a copy just send a stamped addressed envelope to *Disability Now*, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ

Rifton

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What's On

Courses at Castle Priory

Micro-Technology and Special Educational Needs – an intensive course for teachers, therapists and others working with children and young people with special educational needs. No prior knowledge or experience of micro-technology is required. 3-7 November. Tuition £70, residence £84, non-residence £30.

Learning with Rebuses in Mainstream and Special Schools – the emphasis in this practically-based course will be on encouraging independence by developing concepts and language skills. 8 November. £20 (inclusive).

Recent Developments in the Use of Micro-Electronics in Special Education –a course for Special Education Advisers. 10-12 November. Tuition £48, residence £45, non-residence £18.

Music, Art and Drama Workshop – for staff, volunteers and others working with children and adolescents who have special needs. 12-16 November. Tuition £56, residence £84, non-residence £30.

For more information about any of these courses, write to Castle Priory College, Thomas Street, Wallingford, Oxon OX10 0HE. Tel: *(0491) 37551.*

Conferences and Leisure

Lesbians and Gays with Disabilities Sub-Group of the Haringey Lesbian and Gay Sub-Committee is holding its first meeting on 10 September from 8-10pm at Wood Green Central Library, High Road, London N22. It's open to any lesbian or gay with a disability who lives, works, studies or plays in the borough. Wheelchair access. Signer/interpreter available. For further details contact Kirsten Hearn, Haringey Lesbian and Gay Unit, 48 Grand Parade, Green Lanes, London N4. *Tel:* 01-802 8981.

Self-Defence Course for Women with Disabilities. This course consists of 8 weekly sessions, beginning on 24 September, 6-8pm, and is for women with any kind of disability. Fees: 35p per session unwaged, 75p waged. To book a place contact the South Camden's Women's Centre, 96 Cromer Street, London WC1. *Tel:* 01-278 0120 or 01-837 0774 (ansaphone).

Sports for the Disabled – Sampler Evening is taking place on 26 September, 7-9.30pm at Northcroft Recreation Centre, Newbury. The event is for people with disabilities, those who work with them and clubs considering offering facilities for people with disabilities. Activities to try include archery, rifle shooting and carpet bowls, and there will be displays by Riding for the Disabled and the British Association for Sports for the Disabled. Contact Jan King, *tel:* (0635) 44978.

Welfare Benefits One-Day Courses. The Disability Alliance Educational and Research Association is running the following courses: 3 October, Benefits and Community Care; 24 October, Incapacity for Work, with SSAT case study; 31 October, Supplementary Benefit, Additional Requirements with SSATs; 7 November, Industrial Injuries Scheme. Each takes place at The Spastics Society, 12 Park Crescent, London W1 (fully accessible). Fee: £30 a day, with some reduced places for underfunded voluntary organisations. Further details from Annie Donnelly, Disability Alliance ERA, 25 Denmark Street, London WC2 8NJ. *Tel:* 01-379 6142.

Rainmaker Picture Story Theatre is touring throughout England from 20 October to 6 December. Their shows are devised with deaf children in mind and tell a story using mime and visual imagery. Children with English as a second language and those with a mental handicap will also enjoy them. For details contact Cathy Barlow, Post Cottage, Tuddenham, Ipswich, Suffolk. *Tel:* (0473 85) 368.

Skills for Disabled Counsellors is a course organised by the South West London College and takes place on 22-24 October at Brandsgore, Hampshire. It offers an introduction to the ideas and practice of Rogerian client-centred counselling, Gestalt therapy, transactional analysis and also telephone counselling and bereavement. Course fees are £27 (£1 for people who are unemployed or registered disabled and living in ILEA). Accommodation fees £48. Gill Brearley, 47 Lowther Hill, Forest Hill, London SE23 1PZ. *Tel:* 01-690 1561.

CLASSIFIED

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EVEREST & JENNINGS WHEELCHAIR. 16in. seat, 22in. rear wheels. Fully padded, blue upholstery. Footboard and moveable desk. Commode facility. Unused. Cost £600. Will sell for £500 ono. *Tel:* (0704) 33517

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RIFTON FREEDOM STANDER required urgently by the charity Polaid to be supplied to a child in Poland. *Tel:* (0553) 672747.

Find-A-Friend

DISABLED MAN, 37, partially deaf, would like to correspond with people of 25+ in similar position. My interests include hiking, horse riding, art, children and good music. Write to Box No 130, *Disability Now,* address on page 20.

LADY WITH CP would like to correspond with male penfriends, age 33-38, in London and Herts area. Hobbies are dining out, listening to music, reading, writing letters, swimming and fishing. But I will share your hobbies. Must own a car. Please write to Box No 126, address on page 20.

FRENCHMAN, 36, with cp, seeks English, female penfriend to exchange letters and visits. Interests: children, animals, jokes, Beatles, Rolling Stones, most sports, eating out and having fun. Speaks no English. Write to M. Cudraz Gilbert, 37 Ave du Grand Chatelet, Grenoble 38100, Isere, France.

WORKING YOUNG MAN, own home, plus car, will travel, wishes to correspond with any young lady, any age, any interests. I have many interests – sport, music, dining out, movies etc. I also like pets. All letters answered. Please write to Box No 130, *Disability Now,* address on page 20.

On the run – to an oil rig!

Sponsored jailbreakers, Maggie Venables (left) and Pat George made it to the Ninian oil rig in the North Sea.

Thirty-eight "convicts" took part in a sponsored jailbreak from Shrewsbury prison last June and raised £3,500 for The Spastics Society. Some got as far as Malaga or Gibraltar. A "cow-vict" (pantomime cow) was seen dancing to crowds in Covent Garden.

Pat George and Maggie Venables made it to an oil rig, with a little help from BP – like VIP treatment at BP headquarters and trips in a company helicopter.

No marks for the weather, though.

"After a smooth take-off from Dyce flying at 3,000 feet, we headed for 'Magnus' which lies 130 miles north-east of the Shetland Islands. Two hours later the pilots were informed that there was a fog bank over 'Magnus'. As we circled over it, we could see how dangerous it would be to attempt a landing. Permission was obtained for us to land on 'Ninian'. After a warm welcome and lunch we had a 2-hour guided tour!"

They never got to Magnus but they raised over £450.

Derby Evening Telegraph

Totting up the score – or the takings? *Ex-Liverpool international, Emlyn Hughes (left), with golf pro Eric Dyer at the first Celebrity Pro-Am Golf Tournament sponsored by Orion Airways. £12,000 was raised for The Spastics Society and so successful was the day that another is planned for next year.*

Sheltered Placement Scheme Development Officer (Kirklees)

Salary: Scale 5 £7920–£8697 per annum

The Spastics Society invites applications for the above post to join Worklink, a part of the Employment Initiative of Kirklees Metropolitan Council which is aided by the European Commission in association with the Manpower Services Commission and The Spastics Society. Worklink aims to assist people with a disability secure jobs in the community.

The Sheltered Placement Scheme Development Officer will be responsible for targeting jobs in open employment in Kirklees, matching disabled workers with employers, arranging M.S.C. subsidised funding, monitoring placements and supporting new workers. The post is on an initial two year contract, renewable for a further 2 years.

We would particularly welcome applications from people with a disability.

Sheltered Placement Scheme Development Officer (Bradford)

Salary: £123.00 per week (30 hours) – S.P. 22

To work within a close partnership between Bradford Council and The Spastics Society. The aim is to assist people with severe disabilities in securing jobs in the public and private sector.

The Development Officer will be responsible for identifying and establishing jobs in open employment in Bradford, utilising Manpower Services Commission funding. The post is on an initial two year contract with The Spastics Society.

A broad knowledge of the local employment market and qualifications and/or experience in relevant areas of work is required. We particularly welcome applications from people with a disability.

Application forms and job descriptions are available from The Spastics Society, Royal Chambers, Station Parade, Harrogate HG1 1EP, tel: Harrogate (0423) 60521. Completed forms should be returned by 29 September, 1986.

THE SPASTICS SOCIETY

An Equal Opportunity Employer

Carolyn Goodall cleans up one porridgy volunteer in the High Street.

Who's been sitting in *my* porridge?

Sitting in a bath full of cold porridge on a busy high street sounds like a gruelling ordeal.

But it didn't seem to worry the 40 volunteers who staged a non-stop "Porridge opens up the pores week" in aid of the Guildford Adventurers' Playground for handicapped children.

The sit-in, approved by playground manager Carolyn Goodall because "it was loopy enough to attract attention," certainly caught the imagination of passing Guildford shoppers who stared in disbelief at the bathers. They donated £3,500 in 7 days, which will go towards the yearly £30,000 running costs of the playground, which is attended by 10,000 children.

Raising the money has not been without its hardships. During the lonely night vigil the porridge got decidedly chilly. And since it was only changed once every 2 days, the porridge tended to curdle on hot days.

But as one volunteer said: "We've got no complaints about the porridge – after all we're in it for the money!"

They might also gain themselves a place in the *Guinness Book of Records* – the volunteers believe they've broken the world record for the longest time sitting in a bath of porridge.

David Allison

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Designing For People with Sensory Impairments by Stephen Thorpe, B. Arch, is the latest publication from the Access Committee for England. With the help of clear technical drawings it shows architects, planners, developers, building owners and managers how the needs of people with sensory disabilities can be met in public buildings and spaces. £2 (including postage) from the Access Committee for England, 35 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BJ. *Tel:* 01-222 7980.

Voluntary Organisations and New Technology by Ian Irving is a practical guide for staff of voluntary organisations to help them assess the merits of computerisation. Published by Bedford Square Press (the publishing wing of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations), it costs £3.95 from bookshops or £4.40 by post from Harper and Row Distributors Ltd, Estover Road, Plymouth.

The Women's Film, Television and Video Network (WFTVN) – a feminist campaigning and information service – is looking to develop its policy and is now accepting applications from women to join its management group. It is especially interested to hear from black/ethnic women and women with disabilities (regret no wheelchair access). WFTVN, 79 Wardour Street, London W1V 3PH. *Tel:* 01-434 2076.

The Children's Society headquarters has moved. The new address is Church of England Children's Society, Edward Rudolph House, Margery Street, London WC1X OJL. *Tel:* 01-837 4299.

Multiple Sclerosis Telephone Counselling Service is run by MS people for MS people, their families and friends. Organised by ARMS (Action for Research into Multiple Sclerosis), it is manned by trained counsellors. *Telephone numbers:* 01-222 3123 (London). 041-637 2262 (Glasgow) or 021-476 4229 (Birmingham).

Outreach In The Community is a report of the Outreach urban aid-funded scheme at Greenock on Clydeside which helps people with a mental handicap to develop work-related skills and, wherever possible, to find paid employment on the open market. The report could be useful to people trying to develop similar opportunities. It costs £2 from CMH, 12A Maddox Street, London W1R 9PL. *Tel:* 01-492 0727.

ONE COMPLETED COUPON AND DISABILITY NOW IS ANYONE'S

Disability Now is *the* newspaper for disabled people and professionals in the disability field. And it's free! Every month it brings you:

NEWS
What's going on in Parliament, around the country, abroad and in The Spastics Society.

VIEWS
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INFORMATION
about benefits, conferences, services, aids and equipment, holidays, sport and leisure.

FEATURES
on politics, travel, motoring, micro-technology, fashion, books, the arts and personal problems.

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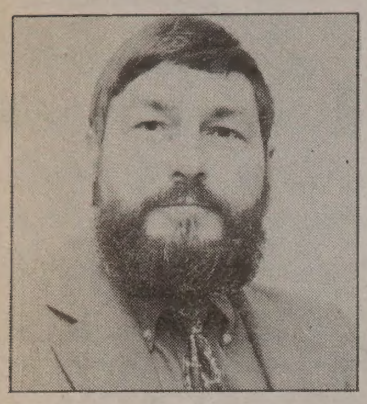
Send to Gayle Mooney, Circulation Supervisor, Disability Now, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ (Donations gratefully accepted).

Candidates for the Executive Council 1986

The Annual General Meeting of The Spastics Society will be held at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London on 1 November

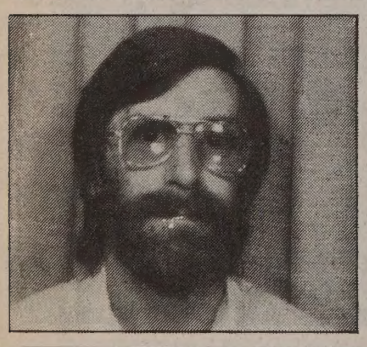


Ron Wheal, 53, is head of client relations for Thomson Holidays. He has a physical disability. For 10 years he was a management consultant. In 1981, he was a member of the Holidays and Leisure Sub-Committee of the International Year of Disabled People and has since promoted holidays for disabled people within the Thomson organisation and the travel industry. He is on the board of governors of the Holiday Care Service, which advises disabled people on their holidays and a treasurer and trustee of the Handicapped Aid Trust. He is a JP, and has been a school governor and chairman of a parent's association.
Special interests: planning, policy co-ordination and the sound development of The Spastics Society.

Betty Fisher, 40, is a housewife and the mother of a disabled child. She is a member of the North East Region Committee, the Pontefract and District Group and The Spastics Society's work centres working party. She recently completed an Open University degree in social sciences. She is governor of a school for children with special needs and a befriender for MIND.
Special interests: recognising cp people as individuals, and working with them to help them realise their own potential. She is also concerned with what happens to the over 19s.

Adrian Wright*, 60, is a solicitor and has cerebral palsy. He has been a member of the Executive Council 1972-8, 1982-5 and a co-opted member this year. He has served on various committees, currently Finance, Social Services and Alpha, and is also chairman of the working party on The Spastics Society's constitution. He has been chairman of the Association of '62 Clubs and secretary of his local group. He is also a member of the Association of Lawyers for Mentally Handicapped People.
Special interests: the plight of older cp people, conditions in work centres; and problems raised by making financial and other provision for disabled people by wills and settlements.

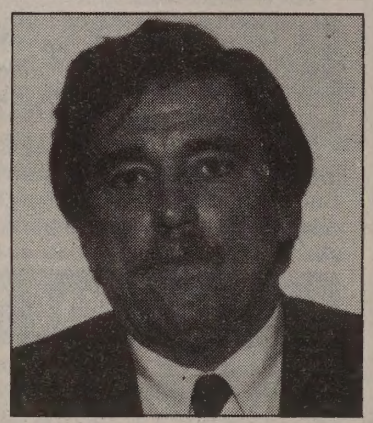
John Per, 37, is a careers officer's assistant at ILEA. He has cerebral palsy. He is vice-chairman of the National Alpha Advisory Committee. He has also been a member of a youth club management committee for 5 years, 2 of them as chairman.
Special interests: disabled people getting a voice in their own affairs and matters of importance to them such as social services, education and employment.



Alan Maynard, 39, has cerebral palsy. He is a member of the London Regional Finance Committee and treasurer of the local group, PUSH (Parents United to Services for the Handicapped). He is a member of the International Cerebral Palsy Society.
Special interests: helping cp people because he is disabled himself and putting forward their point of view.

Kay Fry, 31, is a housewife and has cerebral palsy. She is chairman of the Bristol and District Spastics Association and is involved with its computer project. She is also a member of the Bristol Alpha group. Mrs Fry is a governor of Claremont School for Physically Handicapped Children and a member of the Bristol Community Transport's Management Committee.
Special interests: making known the views of disabled people; education, particularly microelectronics; transport.

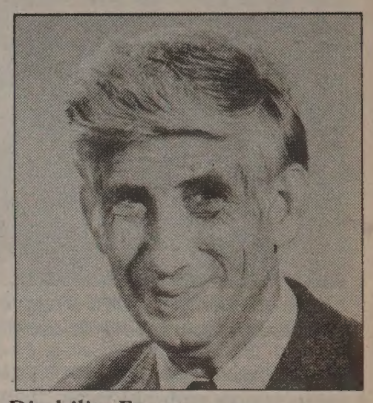
Anne Davis, 34, is a housewife who has a son with cp. She is a member of the London Regional Committee and has been treasurer of its Finance Committee since last year. She was a founder member of the Parent Handicap Information Group in Havering, its chairman and now its secretary. She has recently completed a community care course at Havering Technical College.
Special interests: the general welfare of cp people and expanding services within the local community to meet the needs of cp people and their families.



Dean Berry, 53, is professor of business studies at the London Business School and the parent of a disabled child. He is on the Finance Committee of The Spastics Society and is a member of the long-term planning team, analysing future needs and objectives. He is also a member of the North West Surrey group. As dean of INSEAD, the business school in Fontainebleau, he was concerned with fund raising, marketing and the management of a voluntary organisation.
Special interests: business planning and management.

Betty Piper, 49, is a housewife and the mother of a cp child. After being secretary of the North Hants/West Surrey group for many years, she is now its adult liaison officer. She is also on the management board of White Lodge and a founder member of the Centre for Living at Chertsey. Over the last 3 years she has organised and run a holiday club for handicapped children and helped to set up a day club for young disabled people over 16.
Special interests: the education and social development of children with cp and provision for the over 16s.

Ronald Firman PhD*, 57, is a senior research fellow in Geology at the University of Nottingham and has cerebral palsy. He has been on the Executive Council for 8 years and currently serves on the Educational Advisory, Medical Advisory and Social Services committees. He has been a member of the Nottingham local group since 1954 and is on its executive council. He is a past president and chairman of the Association of '62 Clubs and is president of the Nottingham Club. He is on the Management Committee of the Centre on Environment for the Handicapped and a member of Nottingham Disability Forum.
Special interests: the social and educational problems of disabled people.

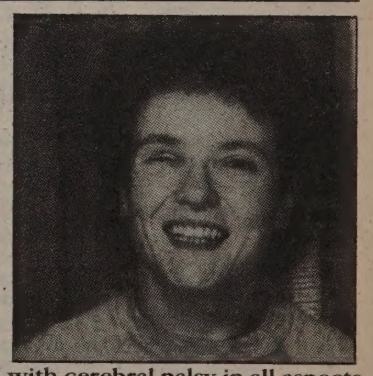


Eileen Milnes*, 56, is a housewife and has a daughter with cerebral palsy. She has been on the Executive Council for 9 years and is currently a member of the Social Services, Regions and Personal Services Committees. She is also The Spastics Society's representative on the National Star Centre for Disabled Youth. She is vice-chairman of the East Region. Among her other interests she is a member of the Manchester Housing and Disability Group and of the Banbury Rainbow Club.
Special interests: encouraging disabled people to have more confidence in themselves and their capabilities, while recognising that many will continually need the specialised caring of The Spastics Society.

David Teacher, 46, is a senior solicitor in a City of London practice. He has cerebral palsy. He has experience of organising fund raising for national and local voluntary organisations, of being a school governor and chairman of a parents' association. He is a member of the North London group.
Special interests: the problems faced by disabled people who live in an able-bodied world, for example, employment, access to buildings and adapting ordinary cars for disabled people. He is also interested in developing fundraising for The Spastics Society and *Disability Now.*

Joan Williams, 59, is head teacher of a nursery centre for handicapped and non-handicapped children and has a daughter with cp. She is a member of the Regions Committee and chairman of the North West Regional Committee. She is both vice-chairman and secretary of the Urmston and District Spastics Society of which she has been a member since 1961. She is also on the Trafford Community Health Council and was on the Greater Manchester Advisory Committee on Cerebral Palsy until it was disbanded.
Special interests: the plight of elderly parents and the future of severely handicapped sons and daughters; also provision for the under 5s.

Sharon Hughes*, 34, recently completed a post-graduate teacher-training course at Bristol University. She has cerebral palsy. She is a member of the Executive Council, chairman of the National Alpha Advisory Committee and a member of Good Neighbours House Management Committee. Previously she was vice-chairman of the North West Region, secretary of the Bolton and District Spastics Society and chairman of the North West Alpha group. She has also been vice-chairman of ADAPT (Action for Disabled Person's Transport) in Greater Manchester and chairman and founder member of Bolton area Dial-a-Ride.
Special interests: supporting the further involvement of people with cerebral palsy in all aspects of The Spastics Society.



*An asterisk * after the candidate's name indicates a retiring member of the Executive Council who is seeking re-election.*

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Please send me details of the following 1. Travel Chair ☐ 2. Joey ☐ 3. Max ☐ 4. Bath Care Chair ☐ 5. Lark ☐ 6. Pony ☐ (tick appropriate box)

Name_____ Address_____

DN 86/9

Aids manufacturers launch code of conduct

A new code of practice seeks to improve the standard of aids and equipment offered to disabled and elderly people by commercial manufacturers.

The voluntary set of guidelines, compiled by the Rehabilitation Aids Section of the British Surgical Trades Association, says that products should only be supplied which fulfill a genuine need. Other recommendations are:

- Customers should be made aware of services from other agencies such as local authorities and the NHS.
- Customers should be told if professional advice might be needed before a purchase.
- If VAT relief could apply, customers should be told how they might obtain it.
- Subscribers to the code should accept responsibility for the quality of their products.

The code was the idea of the 22 companies which make up the BSTA's rehabilitation aids section, including firms like Carter (J & A) Ltd, Everest & Jennings Ltd, Homecraft Supplies Ltd, Mecanaids Ltd, Remploy Ltd and Wessex Medical Equipment. All are listed as having a committment to comply.

The code follows Lord Snowdon's criticisms, made in January, of "greedy manufacturers" which con disabled people "into forking out a fortune for some ill-designed product".

But Ian Sherwood, secretary of the BSTA, says that this was not an influence in introducing the code. Consultations with the College of Occupational Therapists, Disabled Living Foundation, Joint Aids Centre Councils and Research Institute for Consumer Affairs, all of which support the code, had begun before the Snowdon remarks.

"There has been no pressure to evolve the code," he says. "There has just been a recognition that minimum behavioural standards are desirable, and should be self-imposed."

The BSTA, which represents 220 companies in the paramedical field, is planning similar codes for other sections which have a direct dealing with the general public, including suppliers of powered mobility vehicles.

Careline bus cuts out the fuss for disabled people

Merle Davies reports:

CareLine is an exciting new coach "shuttle" service linking mainline stations in London with each other and Heathrow airport. It is operated by Alder Valley North, a subsidiary of the National Bus Company.

Travelling on the "maiden" run, I realised how much this service will be welcomed by elderly and disabled people who have to cross London and are anxious about coping with the bustle of conventional tansport.

The 8 single-decker buses in yellow and two-tone grey have each been designed to take 29 passengers, 8 of them in wheelchairs. There is a special lift to make boarding easier and, once inside, wheelchair passengers are secured at anchorage points and seat belts are available. A specially trained driver is there to help you to your seat.

The beauty of Careline is that it doesn't make you feel different. It looks like any other scheduled coach service. There are sign-posted CareLine pick-up and set-down points at Paddington, Euston, Kings Cross, Victoria, Victoria Coach Station and the 4 Heathrow terminals.

The buses operate every hour from 7am to 8pm, 7 days a week. The single fare between any 2 stations is £1 and from a station to Heathrow £5. (There are no concessionary fares. Guide dogs travel free.)

As the service is linked with British Rail, you can also book your CareLine ticket at local stations and arrange for a member of BR staff to meet your train at one of the mainline stations and help you to the CareLine bus.

Similar help is usually available from the national and international airlines at Heathrow.

The CareLine brochure has a map and timetable. Free from Alder Valley North, Waterford House, Erftstadt Court, Wokingham, Berkshire.

Waking up to the glory of the garden. *People with disabilities from three Islington day centres were shown round Gillespie Park last month in an attempt to encourage more disabled people to use it. The 4-acre conservation area, only one minute from Arsenal station, was converted from a disused coalyard by Islington Council and now has woodlands, wildlife, a pond, wild flowers and brambles. The party, pictured above, have asked for further visits.*

Legal action planned against British tobacco companies

British smokers and others damaged by the use of tobacco are likely to follow the example set in American courts and take legal action against tobacco companies. The first claim is expected against Imperial Tobacco within a year.

Four categories of claims have been identified: children born with a low birthweight; non-smokers who have had to work with smokers and have suffered smoke-related problems; people who began smoking as children and were addicts by the age of 12, and ordinary smokers who have suffered cancer or heart disease and would be prepared to sue in the USA.

Despite differences of approach between British and US courts, ASH is confident that the tobacco industry here will have to start paying out damages.

One result of this may be an increase in cigarette prices as companies seek to offset the cost of insuring against damages. A dis-incentive, perhaps, for young smokers.

★ The SDP has just issued a consultative paper on the future of the NHS in which it recommends a ban on cigarette advertising and the provision of non-smoking areas at work.

"Surely the fund was set up to meet the needs of disabled people?"

Motability cuts grant to £1,000

The charity fund administered by Motability is still short of money.

Disabled drivers or their families who cannot afford the deposit on a new converted car are being told that the grant is limited to £1,000.

They are being advised to see if another car with a lower initial payment might be suitable or, if there is nothing else, to reconsider their own resources or to find the money locally. Only if that fails are they put on a waiting list for a grant.

Seventy people are now on the waiting list and they will have to wait "several months", says Kenneth Keen, secretary of Motability.

Mrs Sylvia Hepworth, whose case was highlighted in *DN* in June, has been offered £1,000 towards a converted Fiat Fiorino. But to have the Hi-Line conversion, which is the only one suitable for her, will cost another £1,127.

"We haven't got the money", says her husband. "Motability is saying we can't have the vehicle we need because of lack of money. But surely the fund was set up to meet the needs of disabled people, not the other way round?"

In June the DHSS increased its grant to Motability to help with fundraising. But none of that money can be used for grants. Motability still relies on donations, mainly from companies and trusts.

Meanwhile, demand rises inexorably. In July, 3,000 people applied to Motability, 1,000 more than in July last year.

"The DHSS is aware of the problem", says Kenneth Keen. "Whether we will get more help I don't know. We'll have to wait and see."

Box Office Assistants
at the South Bank Centre

The South Bank Board wishes to appoint a number of Box Office Assistants to join one of the world's busiest Box Offices at the Royal Festival Hall.

Box Office Assistants are regarded as key staff within the complex and successful applicants will join a highly trained staff operating a sophisticated computer installation, selling 1 million tickets a year.

Responsibilities include making counter, postal and a rapidly growing number of telephone ticket sales and providing a South Bank public information service from the foyers.

Applicants must have previous experience in dealing diplomatically with the public, in handling cash and simple accounting and working in a highly pressurised office.

The Box Office is open seven days a week from 9.45 a.m. to 9.15 p.m. and staff are rostered to cover all opening times, so a willingness to work unsocial hours is essential.

Salary is on a scale £7122 to £7955 inclusive of London Weighting. Enhanced rates are paid for weekend working. Other benefits include a non-contributory pension scheme subsidised meals and 22 days holiday.

For an application form and further details, please write to Personnel Department, South Bank Board, Royal Festival Hall, London SE1 8XX or ring 921 0657/0827. Closing date for return of completed application forms is Friday 26 September 1986.

The South Bank Board welcomes applications from all sections of the Community regardless of race, colour, ethnic or national origins, marital status, sex, sexual orientations, disability or religious beliefs.

THE SOUTH BANK CENTRE

Disability Now

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